

Little Terns and Fairy Terns nest here

This area is important to the two smallest species of tern. The Fairy Tern *Sterna nereis* and the Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* both nest on the ground here, sometimes in mixed flocks.

The males present the females with small fish to win their favour for breeding, and continue to feed the nesting females and the chicks when they hatch.

Both the Fairy Tern and the Little Tern are now endangered species in South Australia. Populations have declined dramatically since the early 2000s.



Photo: Paul Wainright

Photo: Clare Manning



The birds in this image are two different species.

The bird in the foreground has dark plumage that covers the eye and extends down to the bill,

which marks it as a Little Tern. The bird in the centre has dark plumage that stops at the eye, which identifies it as a Fairy Tern.

Don't confuse me!

Crested Terns are common along the coast but are larger than Fairy and Little Terns and have a scruffy head crest.



Photo: Ken Gosbell

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