

# Interior Least Tern

*Sterna antillarum athalassos*

Endangered!



Least terns are the smallest of all the tern species. They are only 8-9 inches long (about the width of this paper)! They are the only tern species that has a white forehead. They eat small fish.

**Endangered** means a species is in danger of becoming **extinct**.



Least terns lay 3 eggs and hatch in about 22-28 days.



Terns make their nests by digging a shallow scrape in the sand. They are very hard to see because chicks are the same color as the sand. That's called **camouflage**.



Least terns nest on dry, bare sandbars in the middle of rivers. They also nest at sand and gravel mines.



Least tern chicks learn to fly about 20-25 days after they hatch. Then they are called

