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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	<b>&lt; CRITICALLY ENDANGERED &gt;</b>	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

## Species of the Day: Chinese Crested Tern

The **Chinese Crested Tern**, *Sterna bergsteini*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This seabird was previously feared to be extinct but was rediscovered in 2000 when, for the first time, its breeding grounds were located. Exclusively coastal, the Chinese Crested Tern only breeds in China and Taiwan on offshore islets and tidal mudflats.

The total population is estimated to be fewer than 50 individuals. The future of this species is threatened by egg-collection (it nests in colonies of other seabirds and collectors do not realise how rare it is) and human disturbance. Other threats include the effects of predatory species such as rats, and the risk of water pollution that affect the terns' food sources.

The Chinese Crested Tern is nationally protected in China and Thailand, and the nesting habitat is patrolled in the breeding season. This has served as an effective deterrent to egg collectors. Programmes to raise local awareness of this bird, and address socio-economic factors relating to its conservation, are being developed.

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