Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Gull-billed tern: p 160.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gmelin 1789), Vagrant (44) 26/5/1955 Invercargill, Southland

Olga Sansom, Hetty and Ross McKenzie, and Brian Ellis discovered two birds amongst other shorebirds at Invercargill aerodrome in May 1955 (McKenzie 1955). "Splendid views" at 25 yards were obtained of their feeding amongst the other birds, occasionally dipping down on the short turf to find prey. They were still present on July 22nd. Gull-billed Terns have been seen in most years since, occasionally in small flocks. Australian Gull-billed Terns may be specifically distinct from Asian and other Gull-billed Terns (Tavares & Baker 2008).