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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
White-fronted tern: pp 163-164.

White-fronted Tern (Tara) *Sterna striata* Gmelin 1789, Native
28/2/1777 south-east coast, North Island
winter 1978 Norfolk Island

Anderson described the first sighting in 1777, on Cook's third voyage (Medway 1976a).

“...in the evening, an Eggbird or Tern which alighted on the ship was caught. It was about the size of the common Tern ...with the head, back and coverts of the wing finely variegated with black and white, the rest of the body nearly white and the Bill and feet black”.

Anderson described the tern as *Sterna variegata*, but as usual, Gmelin formally described the species, from a drawing by Ellis in Bank's collection. Peale (1848) shot some in the Bay of Islands in March 1840, and named them *S. albifrons*.

The sister-species of the White-fronted Tern is the widespread Roseate Tern *S. dougalli* (they share a common ancestor) (Tavares & Baker 2008).

The Southern White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata aucklandornis* Mathews 1929 breeds at the Chathams and Auckland Islands and may be a good subspecies (Checklist Committee (OSNZ) (2010).

