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Black-fronted tern: pp 162-163.

Black-fronted Tern (Tarapirohe) *Chlidonias albostriatus* (G.R. Gray 1845), Endemic
May 1773 Queen Charlotte Sound, Marlborough

J.R. Forster recorded it on Cook's second voyage at Queen Charlotte Sound in May 1773 (Hoare 1982). His description was published in 1844, but the epithet *antarctica* he gave it had been used by then. Wagler apparently named it in 1831, but also used *antarctica*. Percy Earl collected it about 1840 at Waikouaiti, Otago, and Gray named it from these specimens in 1845.

It was considered a marsh tern *Chlidonias* for many years, and even a subspecies of the widespread Whiskered Tern *C. hybrida*, because of comments made by Sibson (1948). Mees (1977) concluded that *albostriata* was not a *Chlidonias*. Lalas & Heather (1980) discussed the taxonomic status of this endemic species and placed it in *Sterna*. Bridge et al. (2005) on the basis of mtDNA studies found that it does indeed belong with *Chlidonias*, its dark plumage and inland nesting habits also being indicative of this. It does however lack the distinctive marsh-nesting habits of the other three marsh terns.

In the British Museum, there is a specimen supposedly from Norfolk Island collected before 1894 (Saunders & Salvin 1894), but no further details are known.