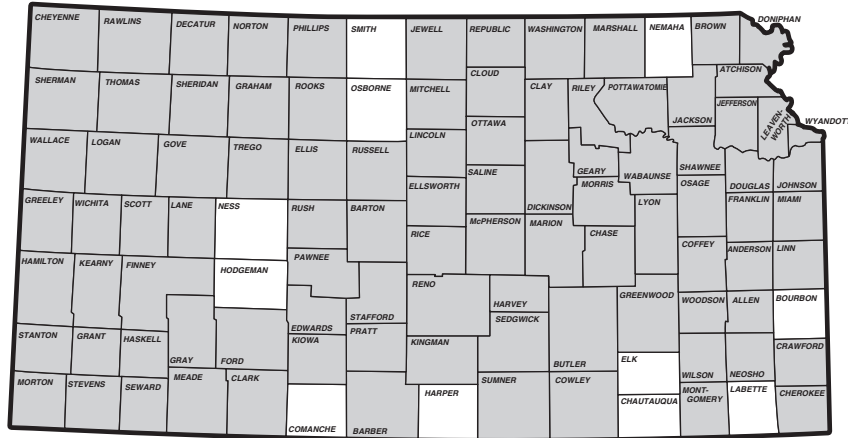


BLACK TERN

Chlidonias niger

RANGE MAP






STATUS

KANSAS: SINC

FEDERAL: NA

MAP KEY

-  Known Current Range
-  Probable Historic Range
-  Known Historic Range

SPECIES DESCRIPTION

The Black Tern needs wetland marshes and shallow lakes and ponds, relatively large size, with approximately 50% emergent vegetation. They require emergent vegetation of floating mats on which to build nests. The birds also need open water areas for foraging for insects and minnows, their main food source, and frequently forage over small ponds and open streams.

The Kansas status and range of the Black Tern is statewide during migration; nesting has been confirmed at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuges. They are usually a late April migrant but have been seen as early as March 20. The normal arrival time is April to September. The nesting population is unknown, only that it occurs. The global decrease in population will affect the number of migrants coming through Kansas. Large numbers can be seen at the central Kansas marshes, where apparently many nonbreeding birds remain during the summer; a few nest.

Threats to the Black Tern include disappearance of suitable wetlands, and there is indication of organochlorine contamination with resulting eggshell thinning. Breeding bird surveys have shown a 7% annual decline in recent years.