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## **Order CHARADRIIFORMES: Waders, Gulls and Terns**

The family sequence of Christidis & Boles (1994), who adopted that of Sibley *et al.* (1988) and Sibley & Monroe (1990), is followed here.

### **Suborder LARI: Skuas, Gulls, Terns and Skimmers**

Condon (1975) and Checklist Committee (1990) recognised three subfamilies within the Laridae (Larinae, Sterninae and Megalopterinae) but this division has not been widely adopted. We follow Gochfeld & Burger (1996) in recognising gulls in one family (Laridae) and terns and noddies in another (Sternidae). The sequence of species for Stercorariidae and Laridae follows Peters (1934) and for Sternidae follows Bridge *et al.* (2005).

### **Family STERNIDAE Bonaparte: Terns and Noddies**

Sterninae Bonaparte, 1838: *Geogr. Comp. List. Birds*: 61 – Type genus *Sterna* Linnaeus, 1758.

Most recommendations from a new study of tern and noddy relationships, based on mtDNA (Bridge *et al.* 2005), have already been adopted by the Taxonomic Subcommittee of the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (Sangster *et al.* 2005) and the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature (Banks, R.C. *et al.* 2006). This follows many years of disagreement about the generic classification of terns for which 3–12 genera have recently been used (see Bridge *et al.* 2005). The genera and their sequence recommended by Bridge *et al.* (2005) are accepted here, with the exception that we place the crested tern in *Sterna* rather than *Thalasseus*, because the evidence for the latter association is weaker (Sangster *et al.* 2005).

### **Genus *Anous* Stephens**

*Anous* Stephens, 1826: in G. Shaw, *General Zool.* 13(1): 139 – Type species (by subsequent designation) *Anous niger* Stephens = *Anous stolidus* (Linnaeus).

*Megalopterus* Boie, 1826: *Isis von Oken*, Heft 10: col. 980 – Type species (by monotypy) *Sterna tenuirostris* Temminck = *Anous tenuirostris* (Temminck).

*Micranous* Saunders, 1895: *Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club* 4: 19 – Type species (by original designation) *Micranous tenuirostris* (Temminck) = *Anous tenuirostris* Temminck.

The preferred common names for noddies are those used by Gochfeld & Burger (1996) and Holdaway *et al.* (2001).

#### ***Anous minutus* Boie**

#### **Black Noddy**

Breeds mainly in the south-west Pacific region, with smaller numbers of breeding sites in the tropical and subtropical Atlantic, east Pacific and in South-east Asia (Higgins & Davies 1996). Seven subspecies are recognised, differing in size and coloration of cap and darkness of rest of plumage, but relationships between populations are poorly understood (Higgins & Davies 1996). Only the nominate form is known from the New Zealand region (Higgins & Davies 1996). *Anous minutus* is treated as a separate species from *A. tenuirostris* Temminck (breeding Indian Ocean), following Serventy *et al.* (1971) and Higgins & Davies (1996).

#### ***Anous minutus minutus* Boie**

#### **Black Noddy**

*Anous minutus* Boie, 1844: *Isis von Oken*, Heft 37: col. 188 – New Holland, restricted to Raine Island, Queensland, Australia (*fide* Mathews 1927, *Syst. Avium Australasianarum* 1: 146).

*Anous leucocapillus* Gould, 1846: *Proc. Zool. Soc. London* 1845 (13): 103 – north coast of Australia.

*Anous leucocapillus* Gould; G.R. Gray 1862, *Ibis* 4: 250.

*Anous melanogenys*; Cheeseman 1891, *Trans. Proc. N.Z. Inst.* 23: 221. Not *Anous melanogenys* G.R. Gray, 1846.

*Micranous leucocapillus* (Gould); Buller 1905, *Suppl. Birds N.Z.* 1: 163.

*Megalopterus minutus minutus* (Boie); Iredale 1913, *Trans. Proc. N.Z. Inst.* 45: 85.

*Megalopterus minutus kermadeci* Mathews, 1916: *Austral Avian Rec.* 3: 55 – “Kermadec Island”, error for MacKay, Queensland, Australia (*fide* Mathews 1927, *Syst. Avium Australasianarum* 1: 146).

*Anous minutus minutus* Boie; Peters 1934, *Check-list Birds World* 2: 347.  
*Anous tenuirostris minutus* Boie; Checklist Committee 1953, *Checklist N.Z. Birds*: 52.  
*Anous minutus* Boie; Lindsay 1963, *Notornis* 10: 304.  
*Anous minutus minutus* Boie; Checklist Committee 1970, *Annot. Checklist Birds N.Z.*: 56.  
*Anous tenuirostris*; Medway 2001, *Notornis* 48: 62. Not *Anous tenuirostris* Temminck, 1823.

Breeds widely in the south-west Pacific from Tuamotu to Samoa, New Caledonia, New Guinea, Australia and Lord Howe Island; in the New Zealand region breeds commonly at Norfolk and Kermadec Islands (Higgins & Davies 1996). Rarely strays outside subtropical waters to mainland New Zealand. North Island records are: live Oct. 1953 and Aug. 1964, Kaipara Harbour; live Jan. 1965, Spirits Bay; live Feb. 1965, Whangarei Heads; dead Mar. 1975, Houhora Harbour; dead Jan. 1986, Muriwai Beach; dead Jan. 1986, Karikari Bay (Powlesland 1989a); live May 1989, Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands (Loh 1990); dead Oct. and Nov. 1989, near Dargaville (Taylor 2004); live Sep. 1990, Rangaunu Harbour (Guest 1991); dead Jan. 1997, Mangawhai Spit; dead Jan. 1997, Ruapuke Beach; and dead Oct. 1998, Muriwai Beach (Taylor 2004). Recorded from the South Island on about six occasions: live Jan. 1961, Farewell Spit; two live May 1975, off Waipara River mouth; live Apr. 1977, Taieri River mouth (Powlesland 1989a, Higgins & Davies 1996); live Oct. 1998, Nelson (unconfirmed; Gaze 2001); live Feb. 2000, Stephens Passage (unconfirmed, Medway 2000b); and live Sep. 2000, Rapahoe (Medway 2001a).