

Why Your Actions Matter

How could a walk through the bird sanctuary harm the terns and shorebirds? Think of it this way: You run or bike from New York City to San Francisco. You can take four layovers during the trip. What would you need during those stops? Imagine traveling over mountains, battling strong winds and storms, avoiding unleashed dogs. Such a trek would test you and you might not finish. Terns and shorebirds fly such a marathon twice a year. Sufficient food and rest is crucial to surviving the journey.

Learn to Identify the Birds

The sign near the sanctuary can help you identify the birds you see. Check it out! The dune steward will be happy to answer your questions about the sanctuary and help you recognize the birds.



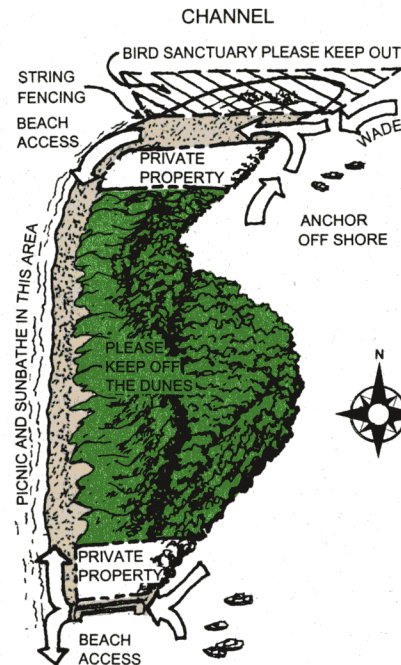
The Nature Conservancy is a non-profit private conservation organization committed to the global preservation of natural diversity. Its mission is to identify and preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Central and Western New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy manages 30 nature preserves and jointly manages Sandy Pond Beach with the DEC and The Friends of Sandy Pond Beach.

We acknowledge support from the US Environmental Protection Agency for this interpretive brochure.

The Nature Conservancy
Central and Western New York Chapter
269 Ouderkirk Road
Pulaski, NY 13142
315-387-3600

Beachgoers:

Stay south of the string fencing stretching across the sandflats near the point. The area to the north is reserved for birds. Watch the terns and shorebirds from outside the sanctuary: **thank you for not disturbing their area.**



Boaters:

Anchor north of string fencing, on the pond side, only when all other areas are full.

Please follow these guidelines:

- 1) Anchor off shore.
- 2) Do not walk through the bird sanctuary.
- 3) Access the beach by wading southward along the pond shore, until you pass the string fencing.
- 4) Refrain from picnicking or sunbathing along the edge of the sanctuary.

THE SANDY POND BEACH BIRD SANCTUARY



Caspian Tern

*Discover the Birds
Respect Their Needs*



A Cooperative Project of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Central and Western New York Chapter, and The Friends of Sandy Pond Beach

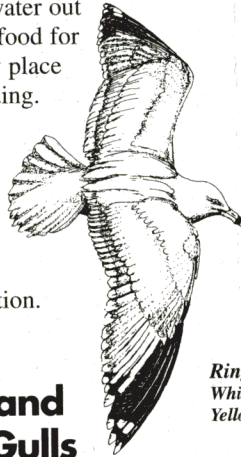
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A Crucial Rest Stop

The sandflats on Sandy Pond Beach, adjacent to the channel, provide critical shorebird and tern habitat. Some birds use the sandflats during migration. Others use the sanctuary throughout the summer. Three species of terns that nest nearby use the flats to rest, feed, and train their young.

The area adjacent to the channel was selected as a sanctuary because the flow of water out of the pond brings with it abundant food for the birds and the sandflat is the only place the terns rest when they are not feeding.

Since the birds don't adapt well to our activities, it is up to us to accommodate their needs. We reserved the area closest to the channel for birds, leaving the rest of the beach open for human recreation.



Ring-billed Gull
White head
Yellow beak

Ring-billed Gulls rest at the sanctuary but also visit your picnic.

Caspian, Common, and Black Terns, Not All Gulls

Common Terns (a threatened species) and *Black Terns* (an endangered species) nest near Sandy Pond and feed along its shores.



Black Tern
Black body
Dark wings



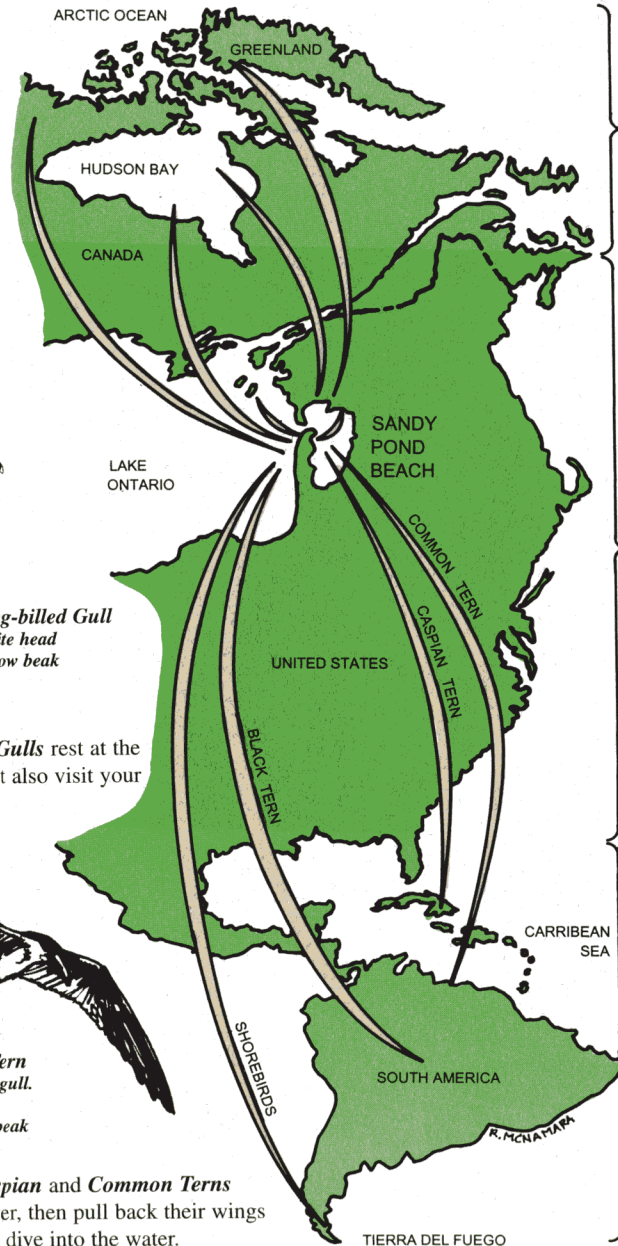
Common Tern
Black cap
Slender red beak



Caspian Tern
As big as a gull.
Black cap,
Heavy red beak

Caspian and Common Terns hover, then pull back their wings and dive into the water.

Black Terns skim the lake surface for prey.



Nesting Grounds

Stopover Area

Wintering Grounds

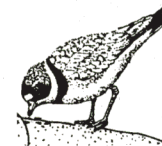
Natural Area User Guidelines

- 1) Visitor hours: half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset.
- 2) Stay on the beach. Stay off the dunes.
- 3) Camping, open fires, and glass containers are prohibited; self contained heaters are permitted.
- 4) No vehicles of any kind.
- 5) Dogs must be kept on a leash
- 6) Respect private property.

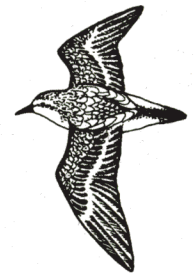
Shorebirds

Shorebirds, such as *Sandpipers*, feed in the damp sand along the edge of the water. They are generally much smaller than the terns, yet fly greater distances, from the Arctic to as far south as the southern tip of South America.

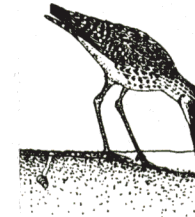
Shorebirds begin returning to Sandy Pond Beach from the north in late July and use the sanctuary when the beach is crowded.



Semi-palmated Plover
Black collar
Brown back



Least Sandpiper
Small size
Yellow green legs



Greater Yellowlegs
Long yellow legs
Slim beak

Shorebirds include many similar species moving in mixed flocks.