



- The following pages have some identification markers for each of the Terns found in India
- To know more on these birds you can visit <http://ogaclicks.com/tern/>
- If you are interested in Coming on any of my tours or workshops please share your email id. I will keep you updated
- Mail me at ogaclicks@gmail.com
- You can also call me on (91)9840119078 ,
(91) 9445219078
(91) 6369815812

List of Terns found in India

Sno.	Name	Binomial Name
1	Artic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
2	Black Tern	<i>Chidonias niger</i>
3	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>
4	Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
5	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>
6	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
7	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
8	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
9	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
10	Indian Skimmer	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>
11	Lesser crested tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
12	Little Tern	<i>Sternula abifrons</i>
13	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>
14	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>
15	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
16	Saunders's Tern	<i>Sternula saundersi</i>
17	Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>
18	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
19	White-cheeked Tern	<i>Sterna repressa</i>
20	White-winged Tern	<i>Chidonias leucopterus</i>

Arctic Tern Identification Tips

Arctic Tern : *Sterna paradisaea* : Vagrant in India

Bill is coral red to blood red

Black crown

Uniform Pale grey Upperparts

Central tail bordered laterally by dark grey, deeply forked

Chin & throat is White

Breast is pale grey

Under parts is pale grey

Legs are Red

Outer web of outer primary blackish, forming fine dark line at leading edge of outer wing. Primaries are translucent

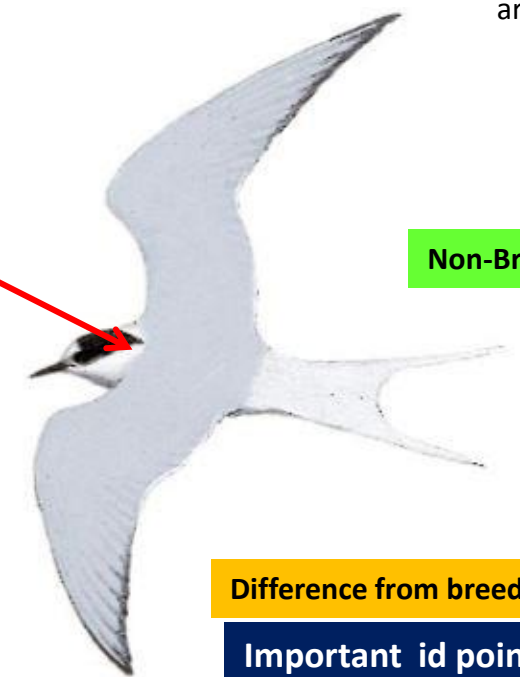
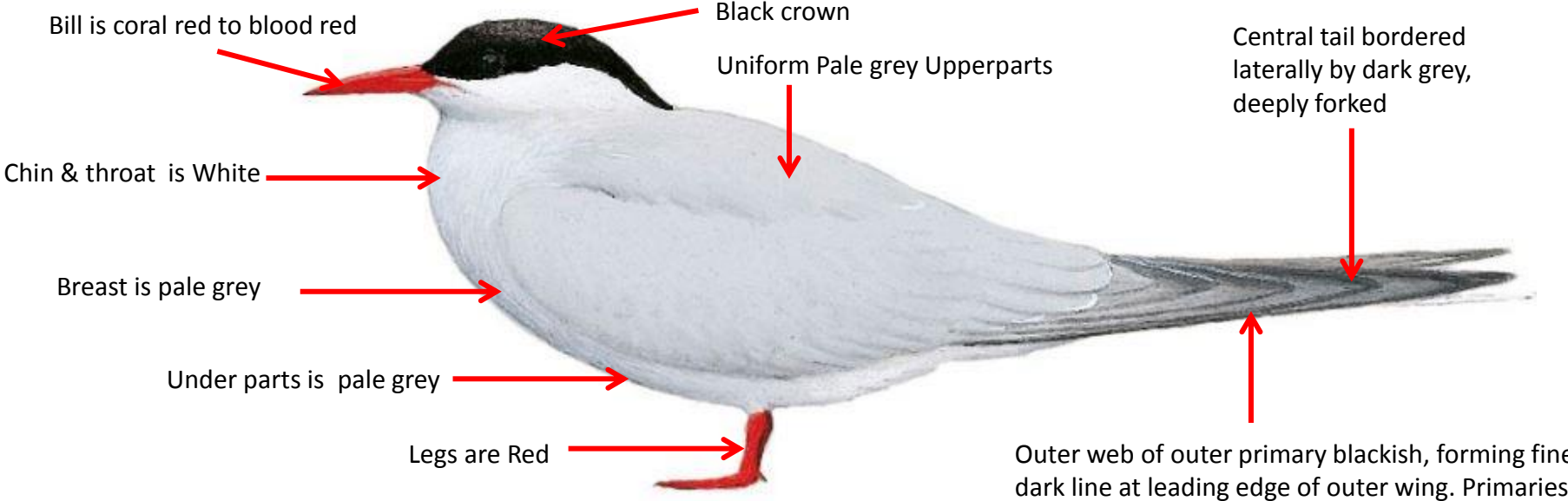
Black mask extends from eye across rear mid crown to nape

Non-Breeding

Difference from breeding

Important id point

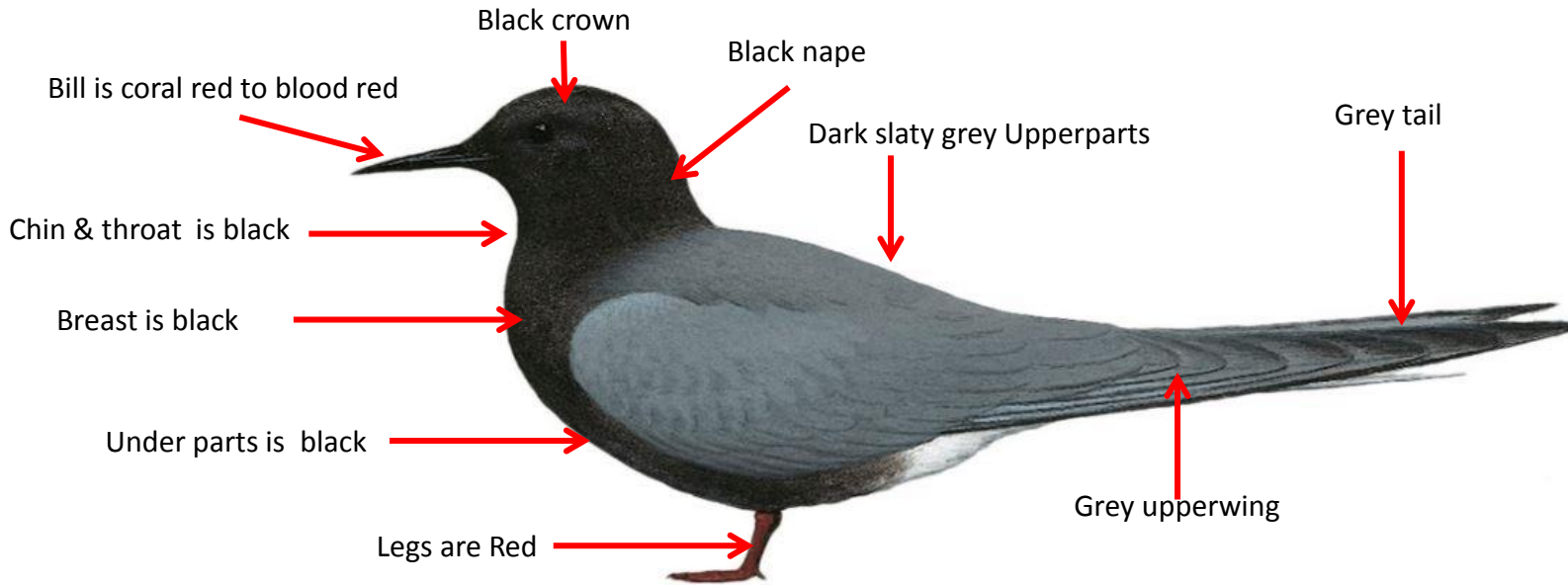
Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com



Difference from breeding
Important id point

Black Tern Identification Tips

Black Tern : *Chidonias niger*: Vagrant in India



Head white, with contrasting dusky blackish central crown

Black patch behind eye

Pale grey Upperparts

Non-Breeding

White throat & breast

Dark patch on side of breast

White underparts

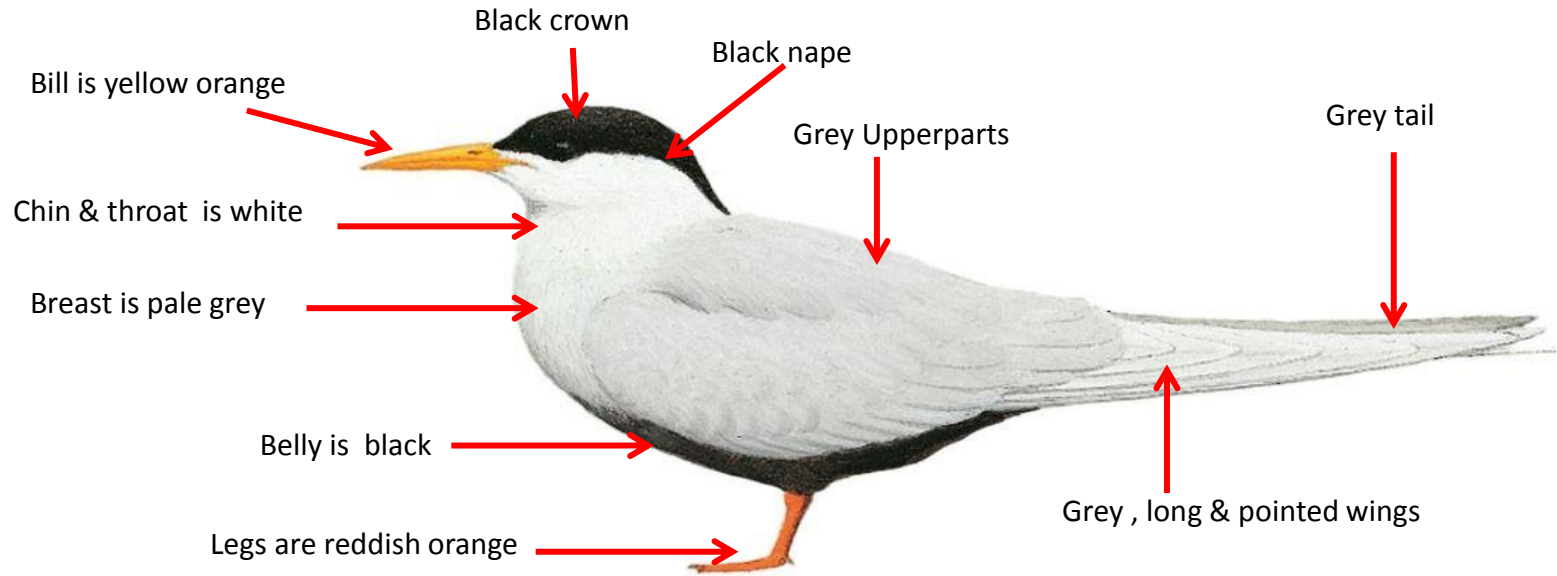
Difference from breeding

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Black-bellied Tern Identification Tips

Black-bellied Tern : *Sterna acuticauda*: Widespread resident in North ,Central & West ; winter visitor in Kerala in India



Non-Breeding

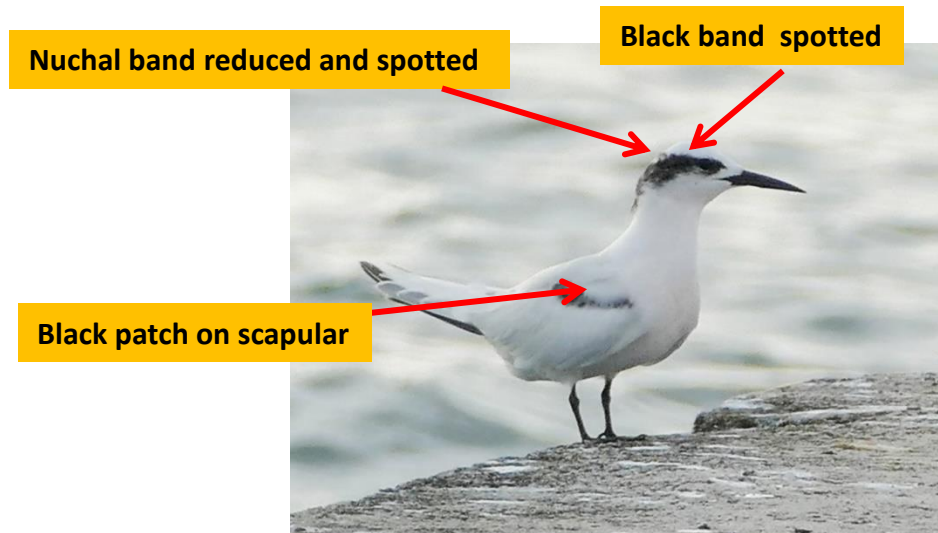
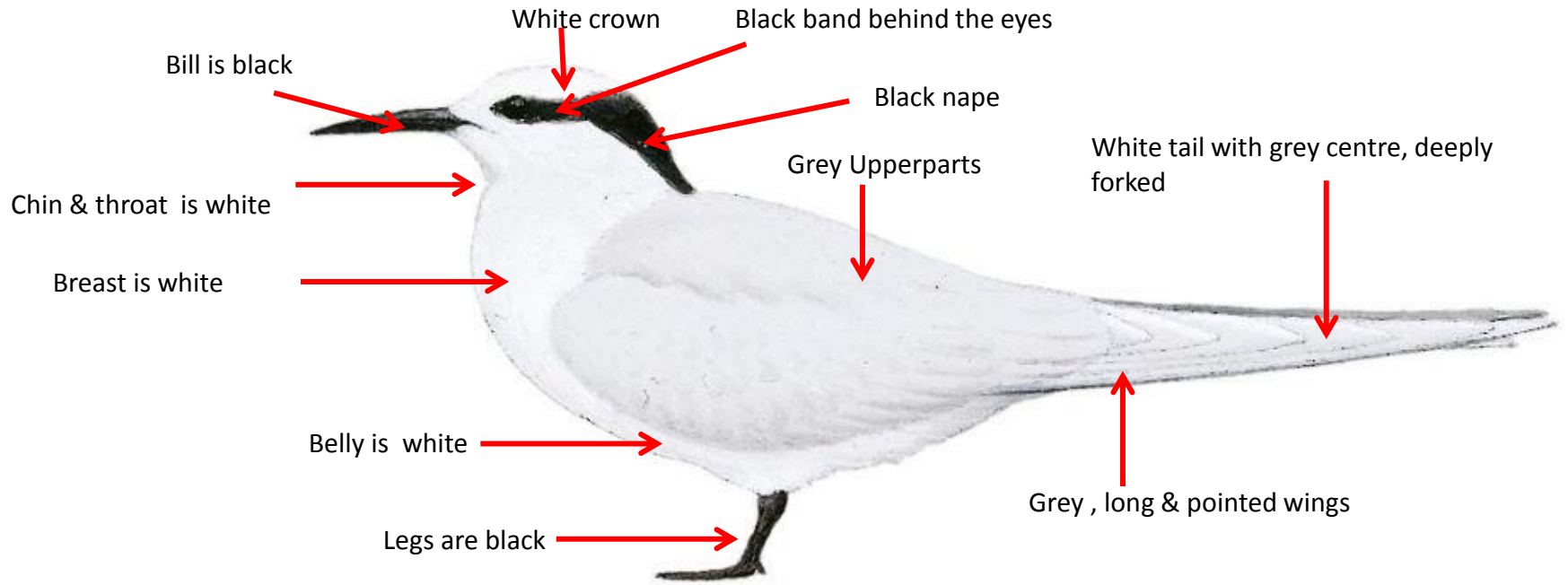
Difference from breeding

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Black-naped Tern Identification Tips

Black-naped Tern : *Sterna sumatrana*: Resident in Andaman & Nicobar island in India

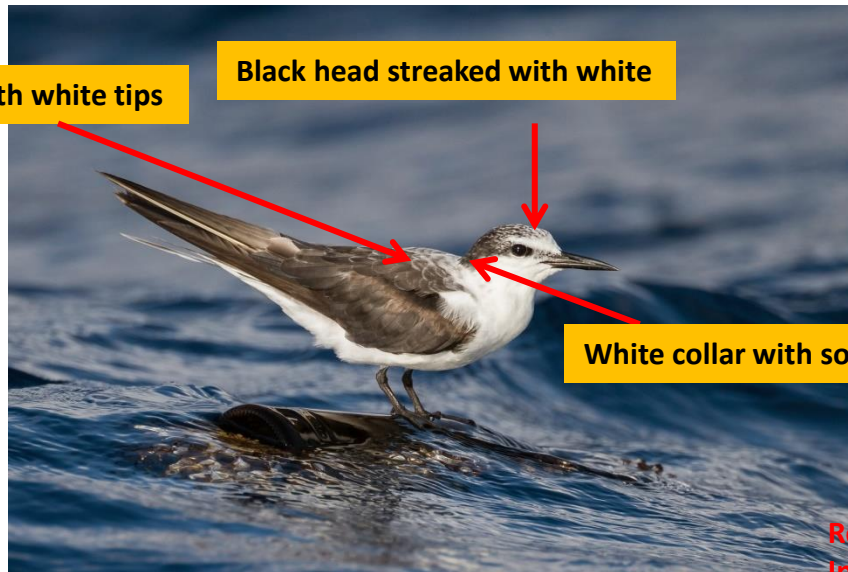
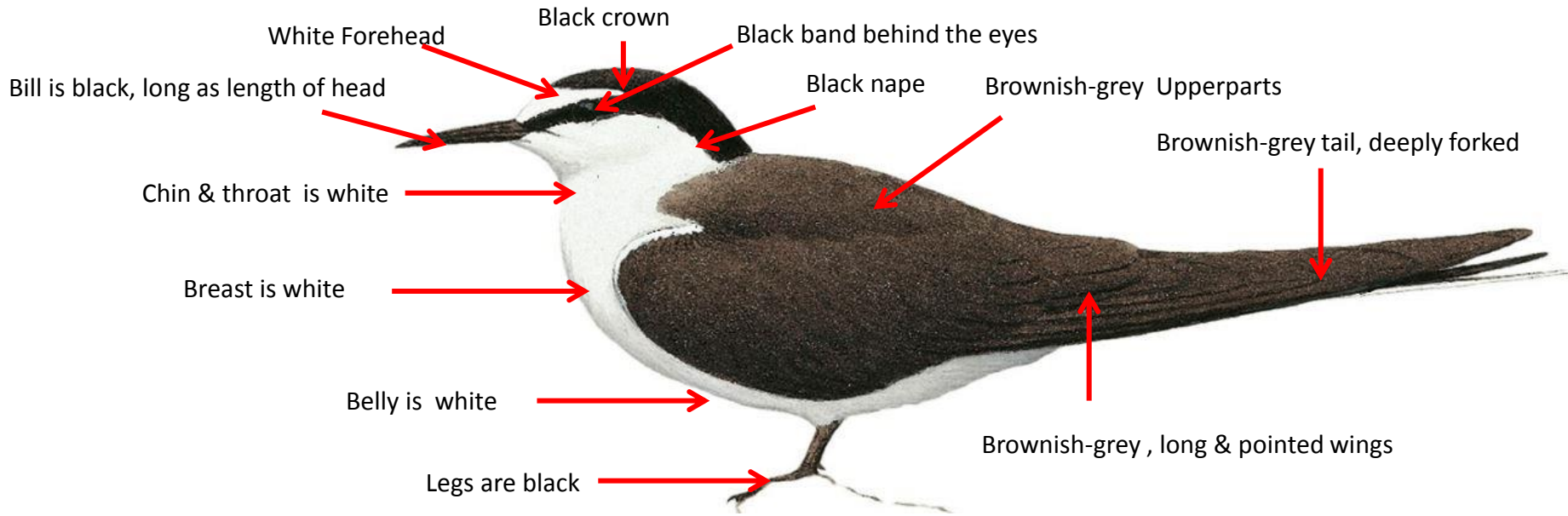


Non-Breeding

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

Bridled Tern Identification Tips

Bridled Tern : *Onychoprion anaethetus*: Breeds of Maharashtra coast and Lakshwadeep in India



Non-Breeding

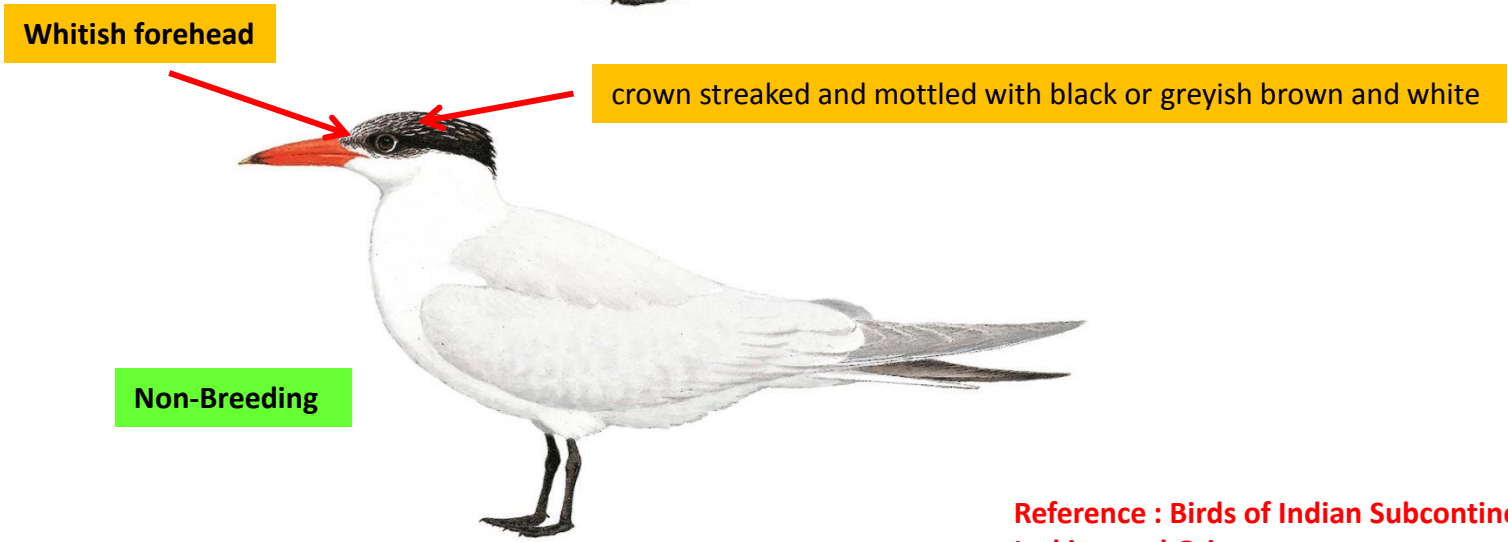
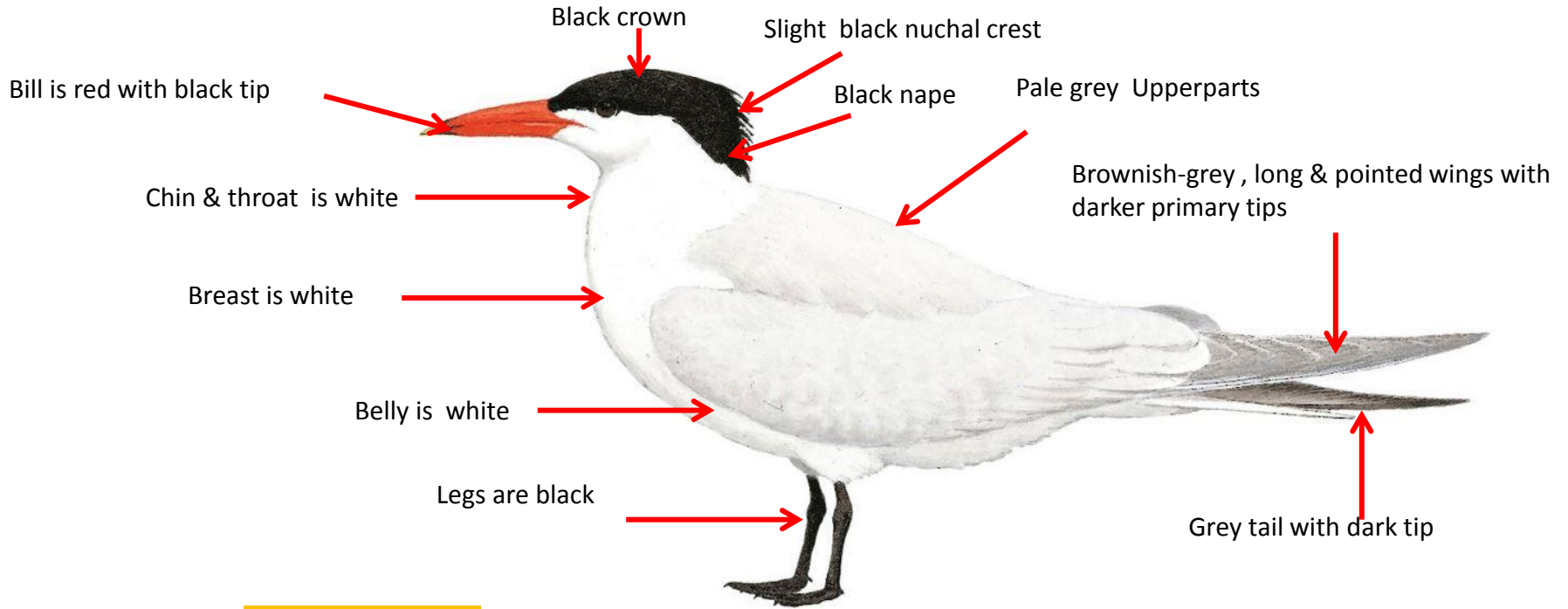
Difference from breeding

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
Inskipp and Grimmett
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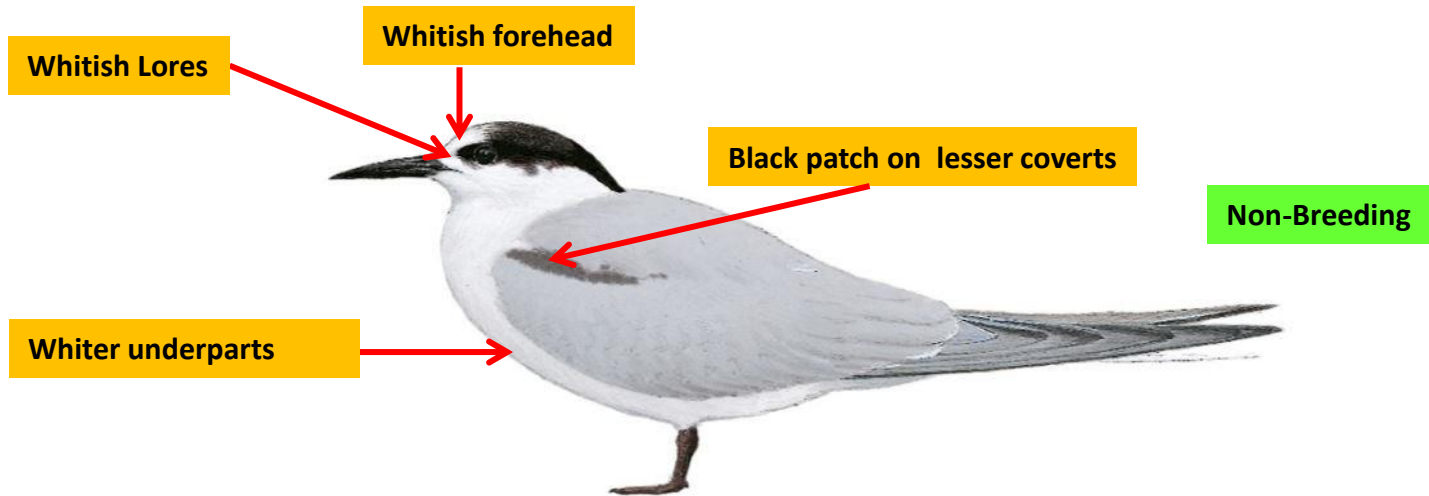
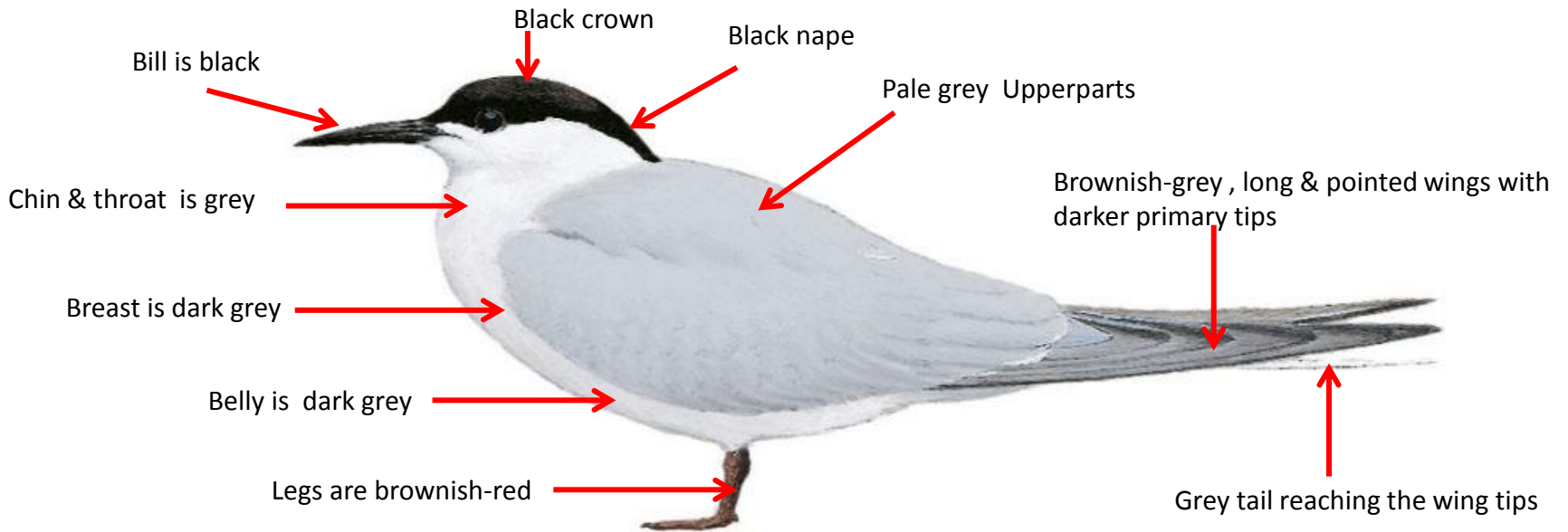
Caspian Tern Identification Tips

Caspian Tern : *Hydroprogne caspia* : Breeds in Gujarat, Widespread winter visitor in coasts of India



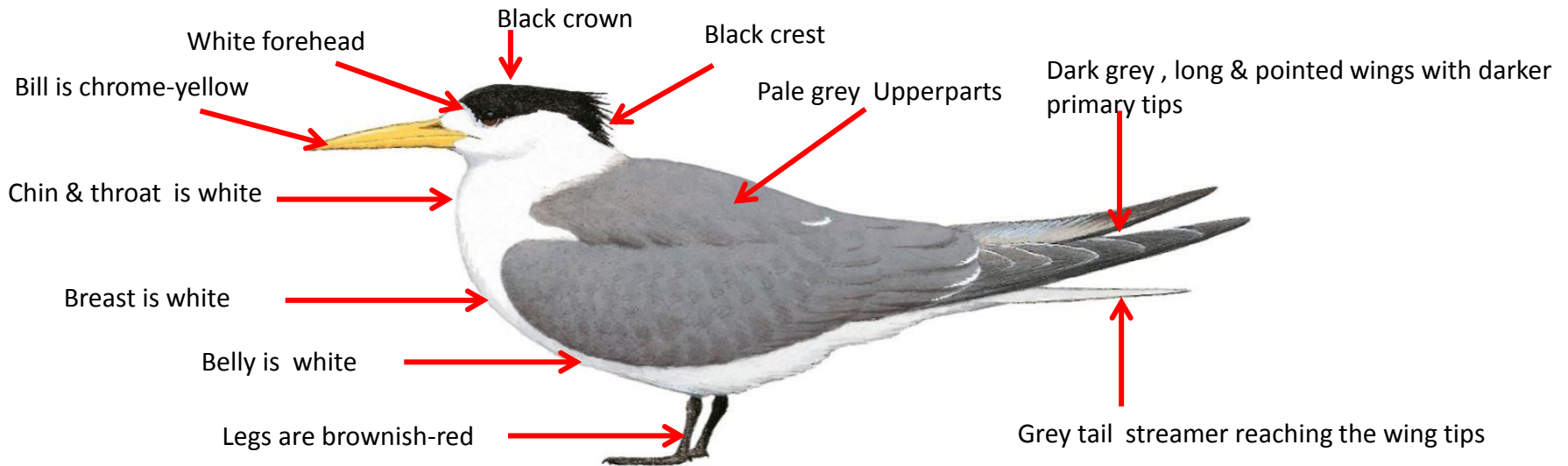
Common Tern Identification Tips - *S. h. longipennis*

Common Tern : *Sterna hirundo longipennis* : Breeds in Ladhak , Widespread winter visitor in coasts of India

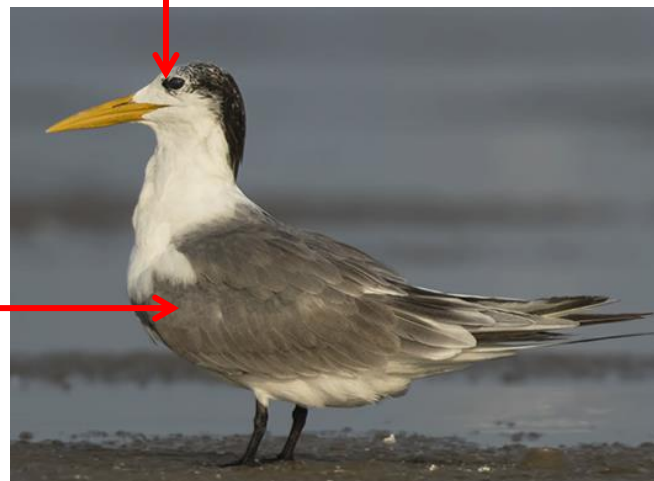


Greater Crested Tern Identification Tips - *T. b. velox*

Greater Crested Tern : *Thalasseus bergii*: Residents of coasts of India



White crown with some dark spotting



Non-Breeding

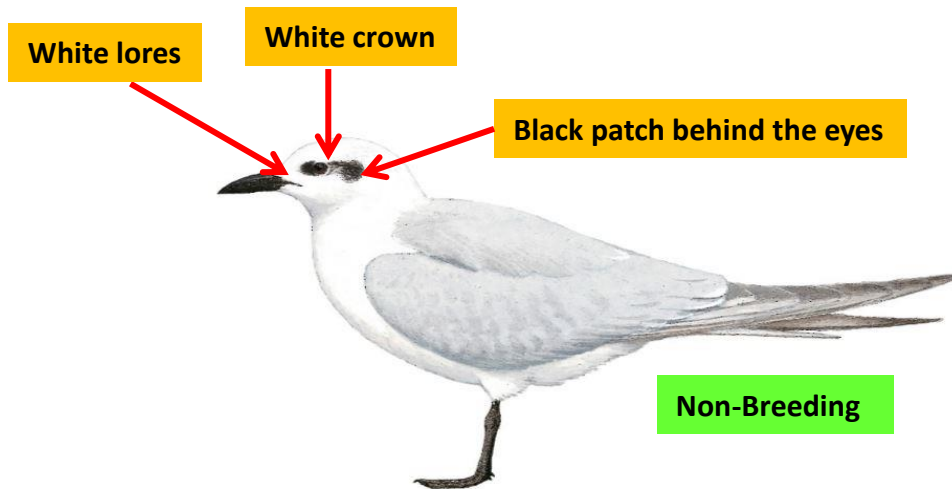
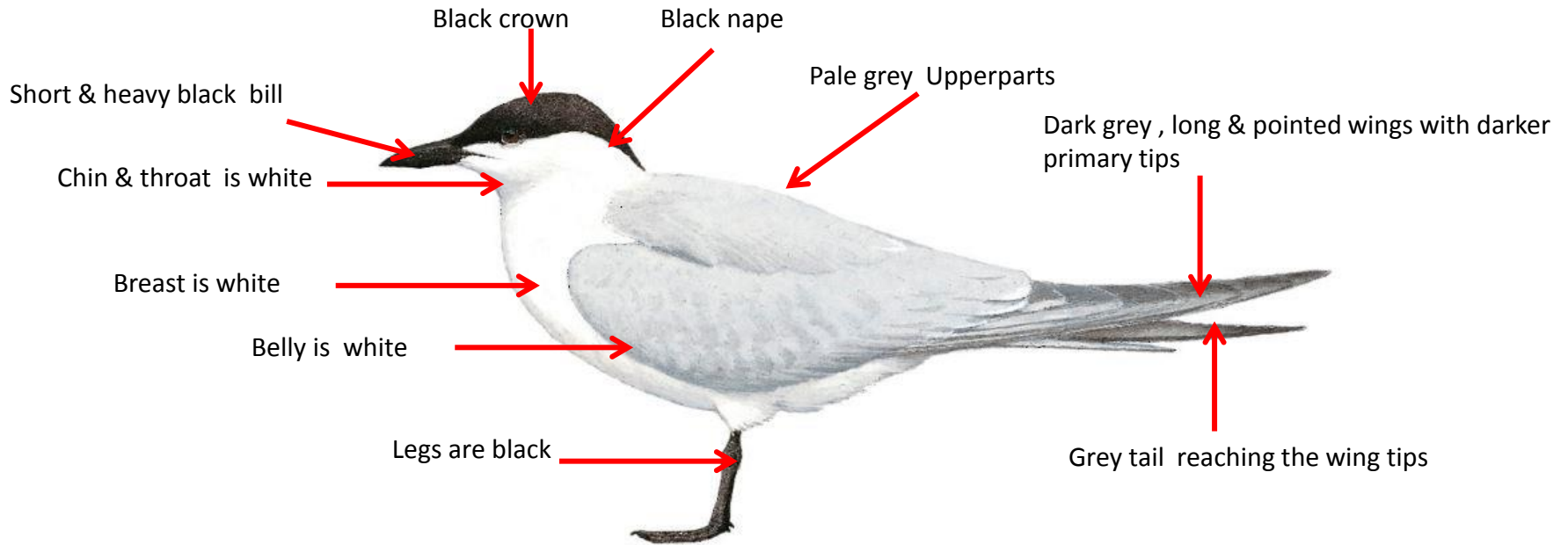
Difference from breeding

Important id point

Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent
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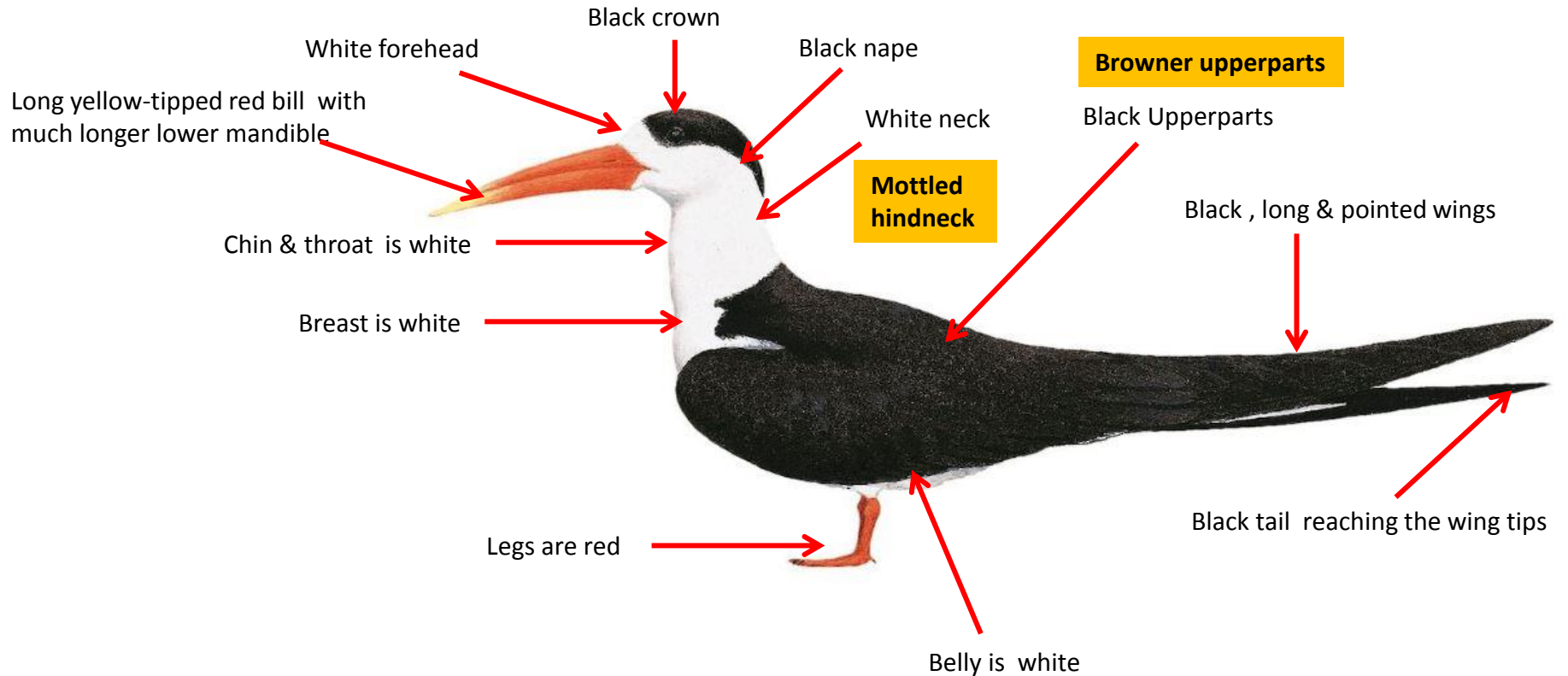
Gull-billed Tern Identification Tips

Gull-billed Tern : *Gelochelidon nilotica* : Breeds in North India ; widespread winter visitors to coasts of India



Indian Skimmer Identification Tips

Indian Skimmer : *Rynchops albicollis*: Resident of North & Central India



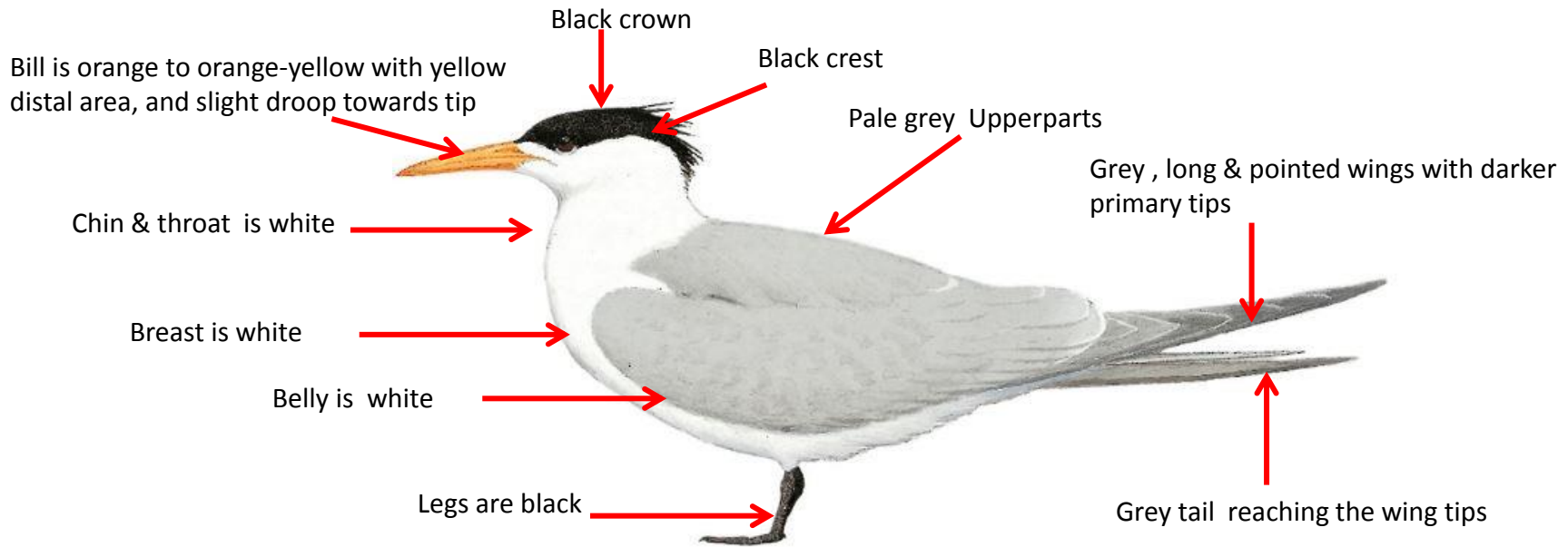
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www.HBW.com

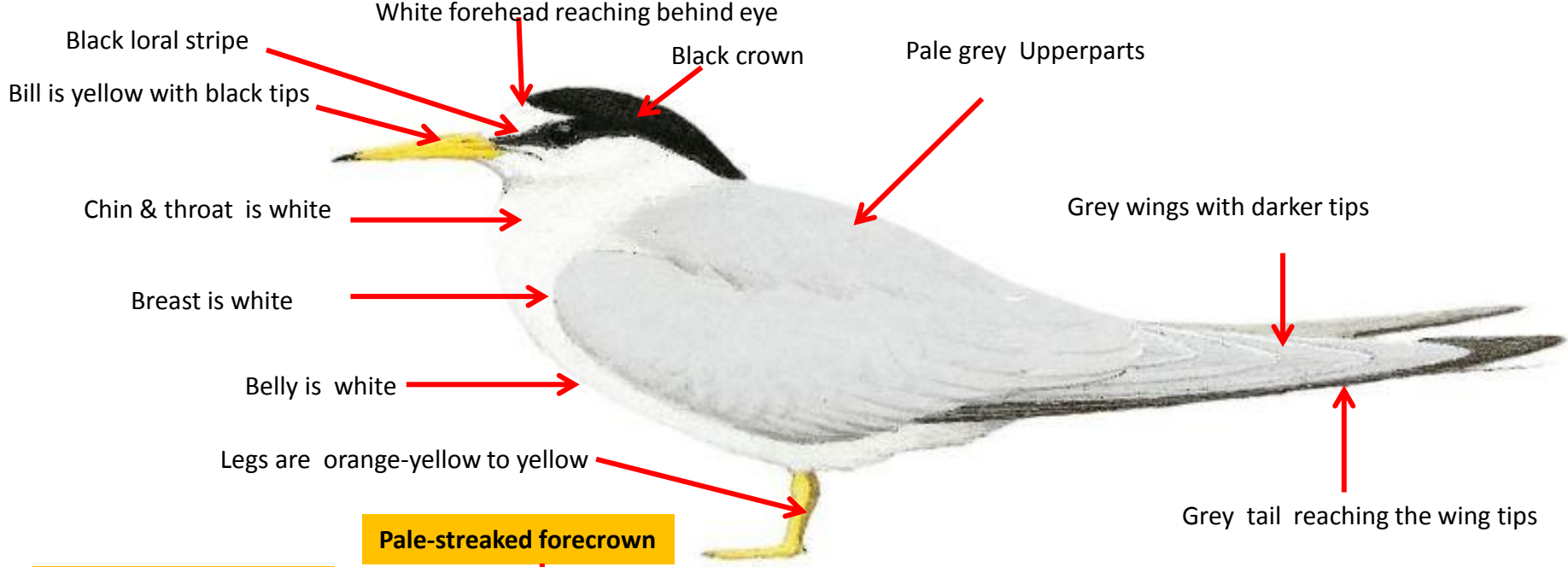
Lesser Crested Tern Identification Tips

Lesser Crested Tern : *Thalasseus bengalensis*: Widespread winter visitors to coasts of India



Little Tern Identification Tips

Little Tern : *Sternula abifrons*: Breeds in Rajasthan, Utter Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh ; Widespread winter visitors to coasts of India



White lores with black spot before eye

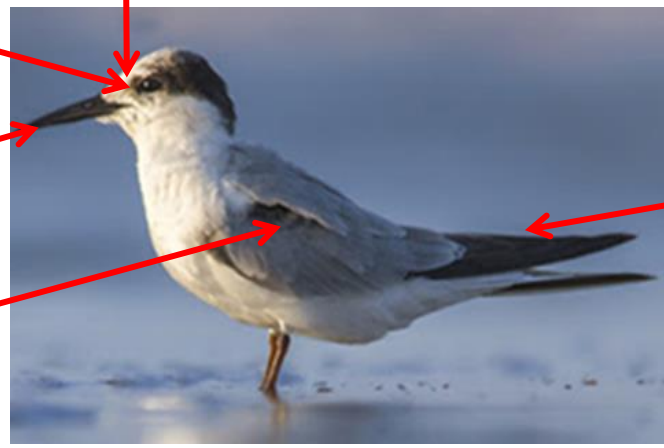
Pale-streaked forecrown

Black bill

Dark lesser coverts

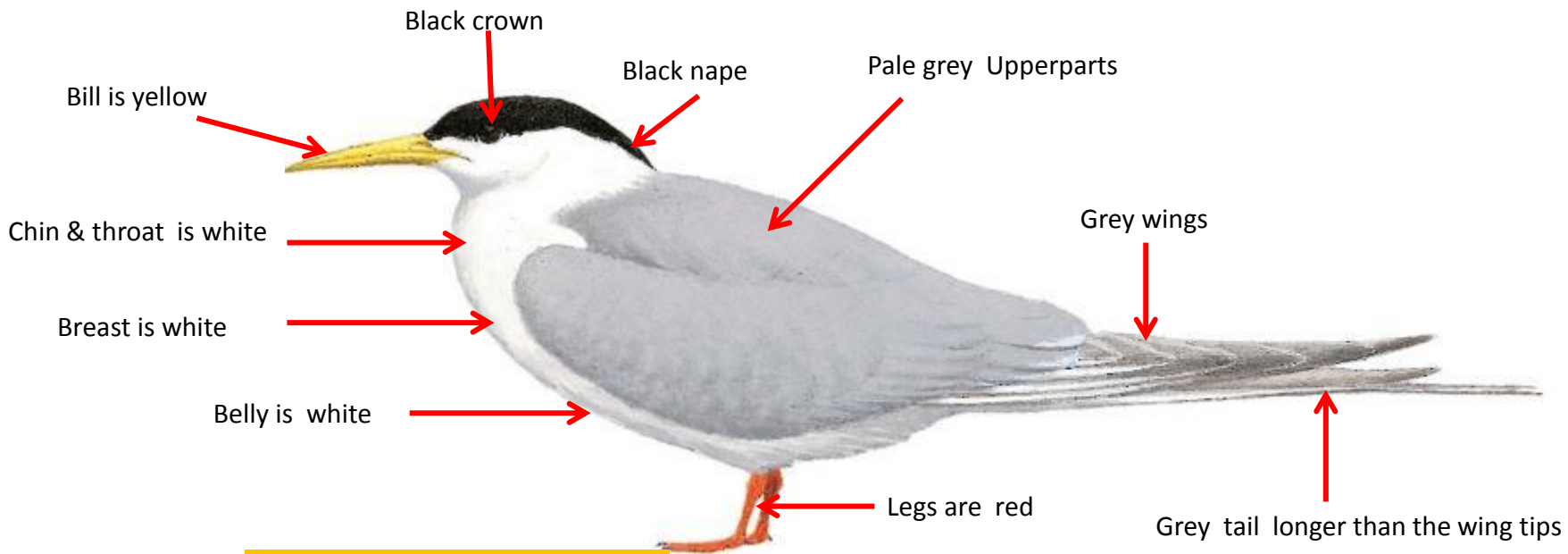
Non-Breeding

Darker wing tips



River Tern Identification Tips

River Tern : *Sterna aurantia* : Widespread residents in India



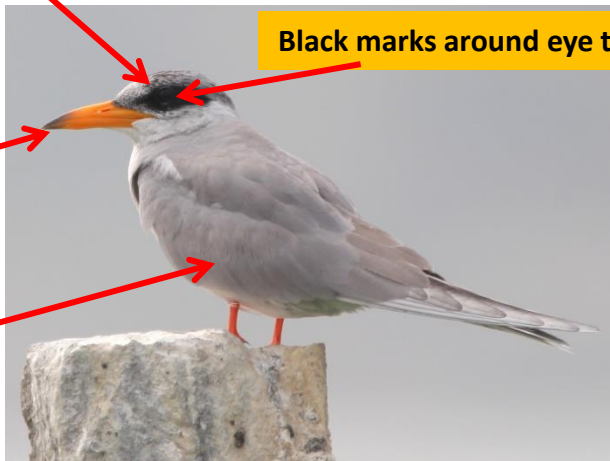
Whitish forehead and forecrown

Black marks around eye to nape

Yellow bill with black tip

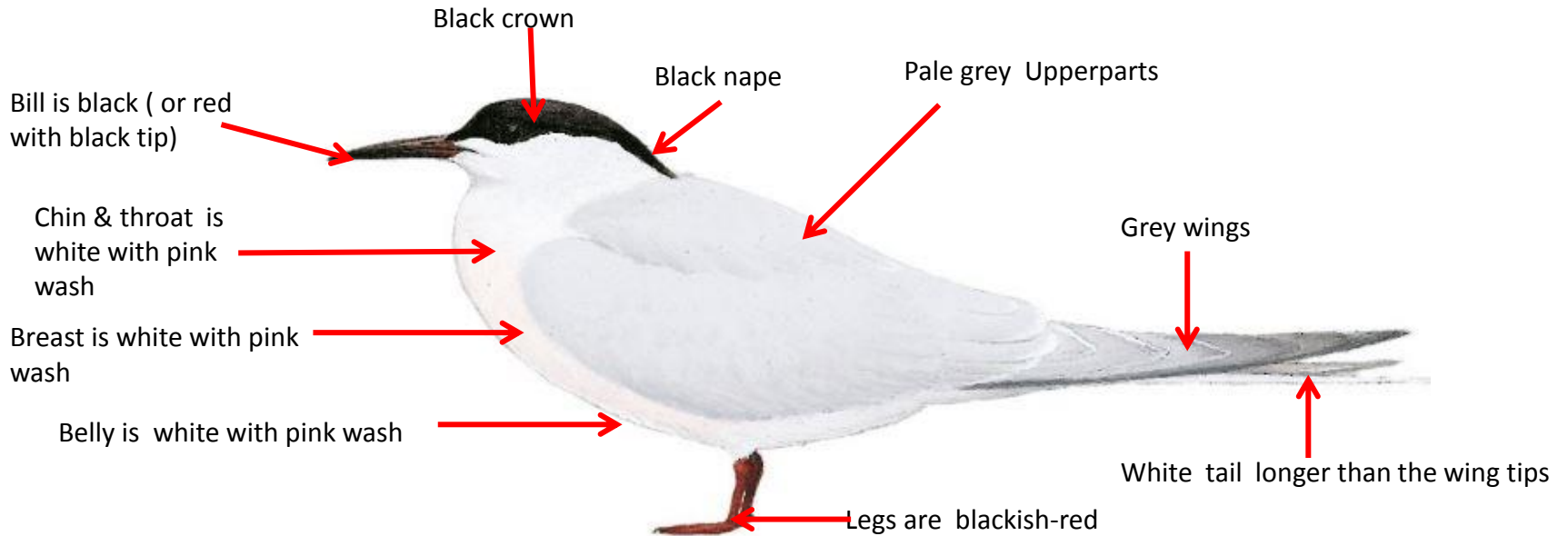
Non-Breeding

Dark lesser coverts



Roseate Tern Identification Tips

Roseate Tern : *Sterna dougallii* : Vagrant in summers in India



Black mask extending from the eye back to the nape

Forehead is white and with pale streaks on the crown

Non-Breeding

Shorter tail



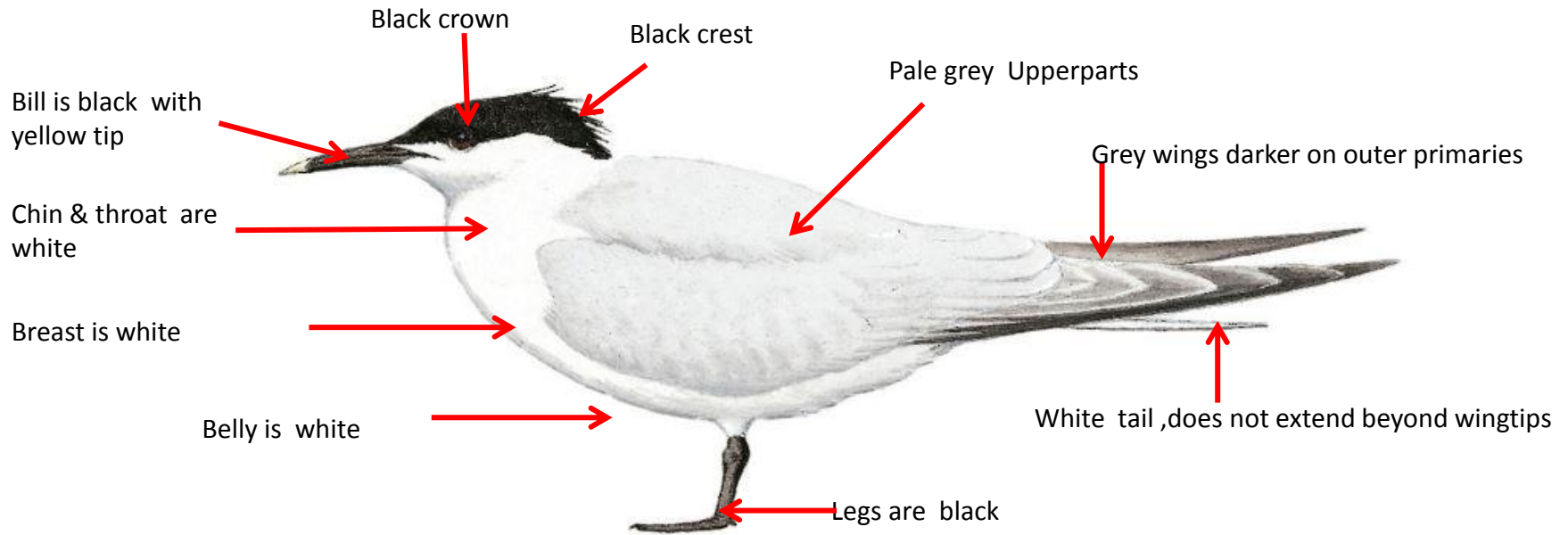
Difference from breeding

Important id point

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Sandwich Tern Identification Tips

Sandwich Tern : *Thalasseus sandvicensis* : Winter visitor to western coast of India



White crown & head

Black spot in front of the eye

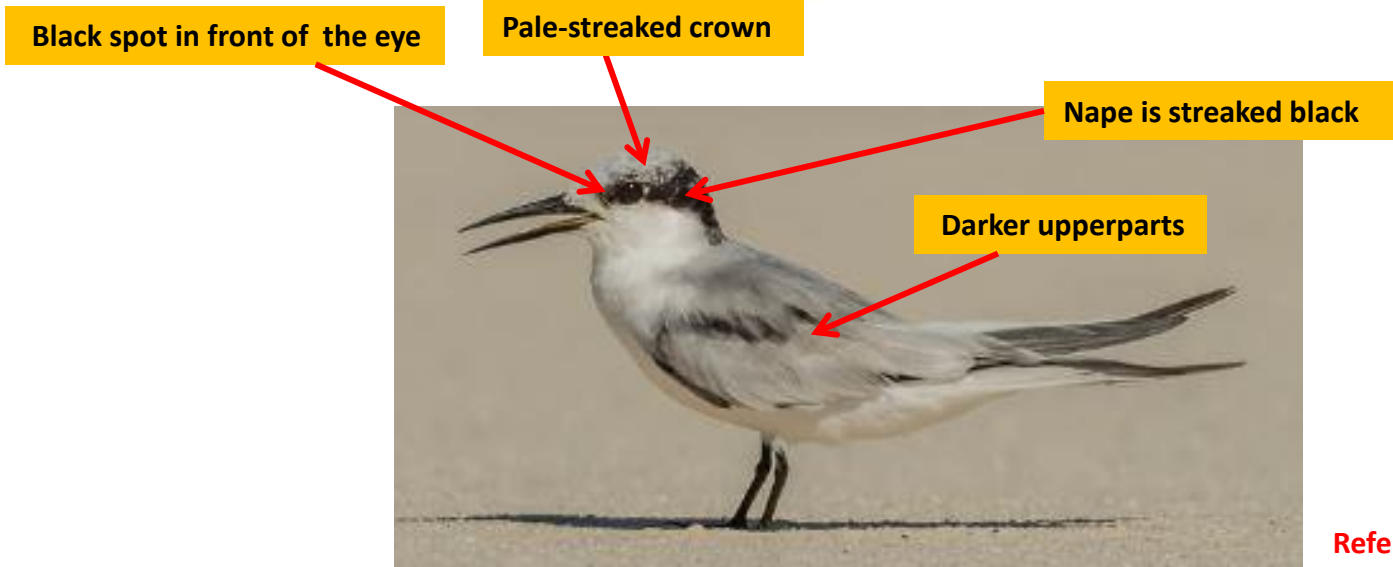
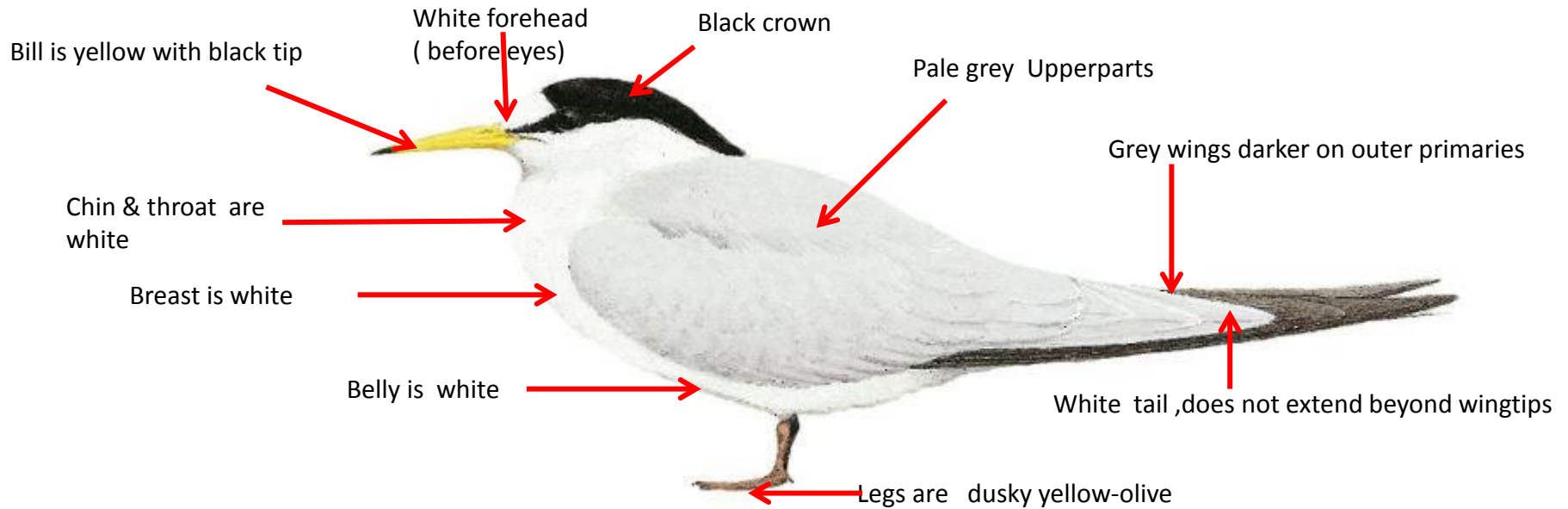
Nape is streaked black , small black crest



Non-Breeding

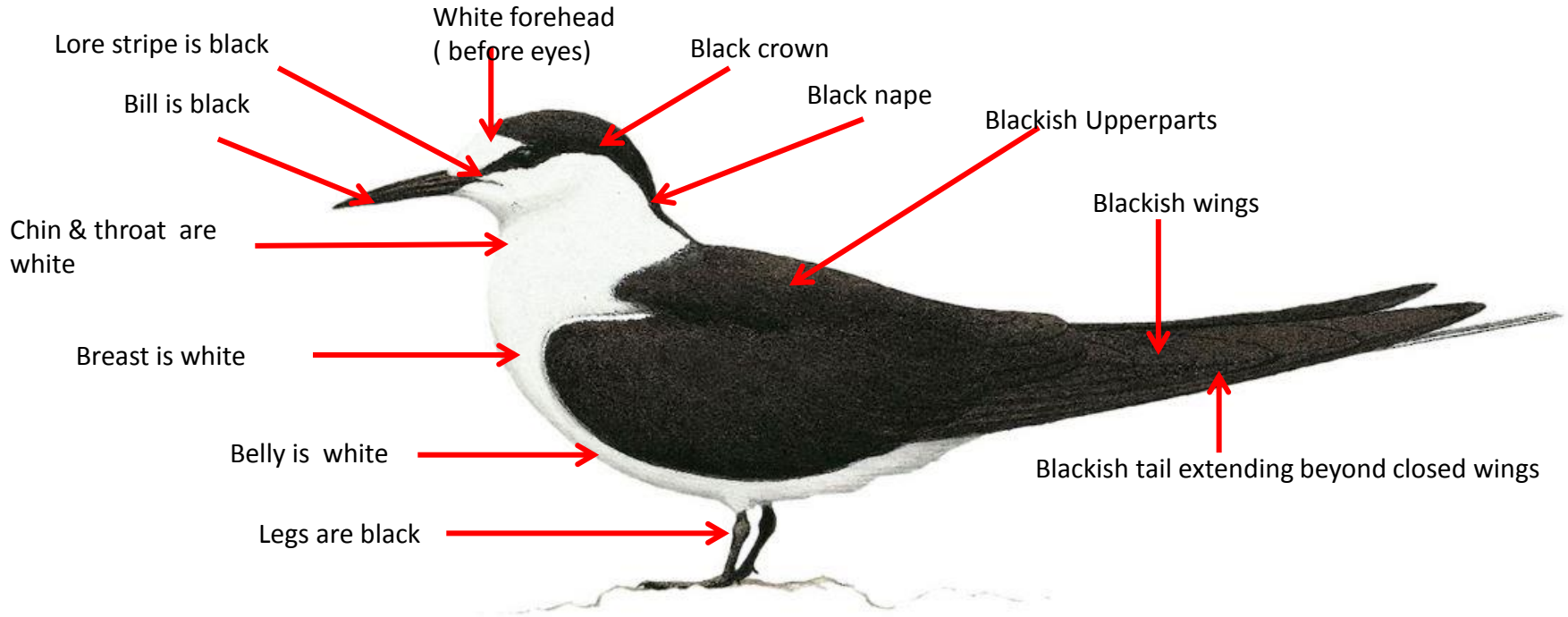
Saunders's Tern Identification Tips

Saunders's Tern : *Sternula saundersi* : Vagrant to western & southern coast of India

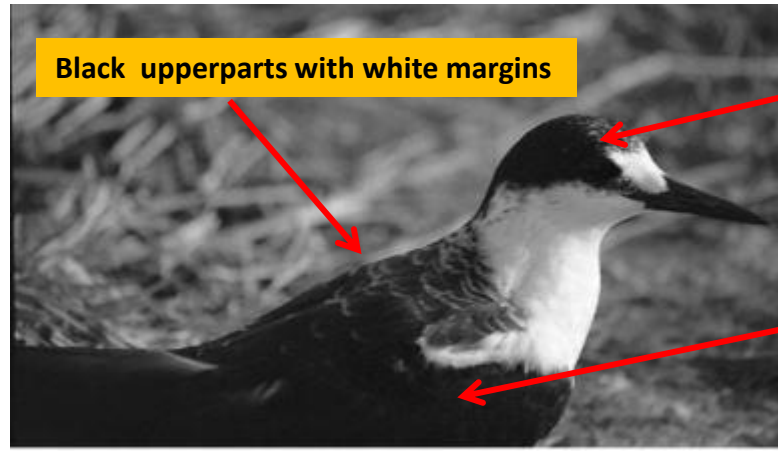


Sooty Tern Identification Tips

Sooty Tern : *Onychoprion fuscatus*: Breeds of Maharashtra coast and Lakshwadeep in India



Non-Breeding



Black upperparts with white margins

Forehead with white margins

Underparts are black from belly

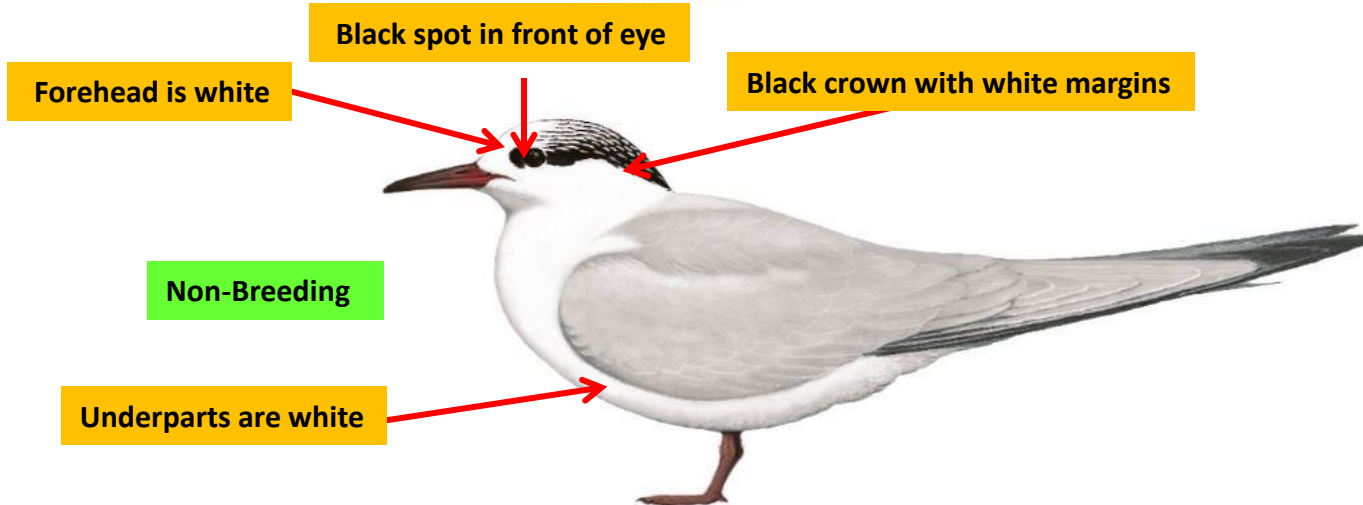
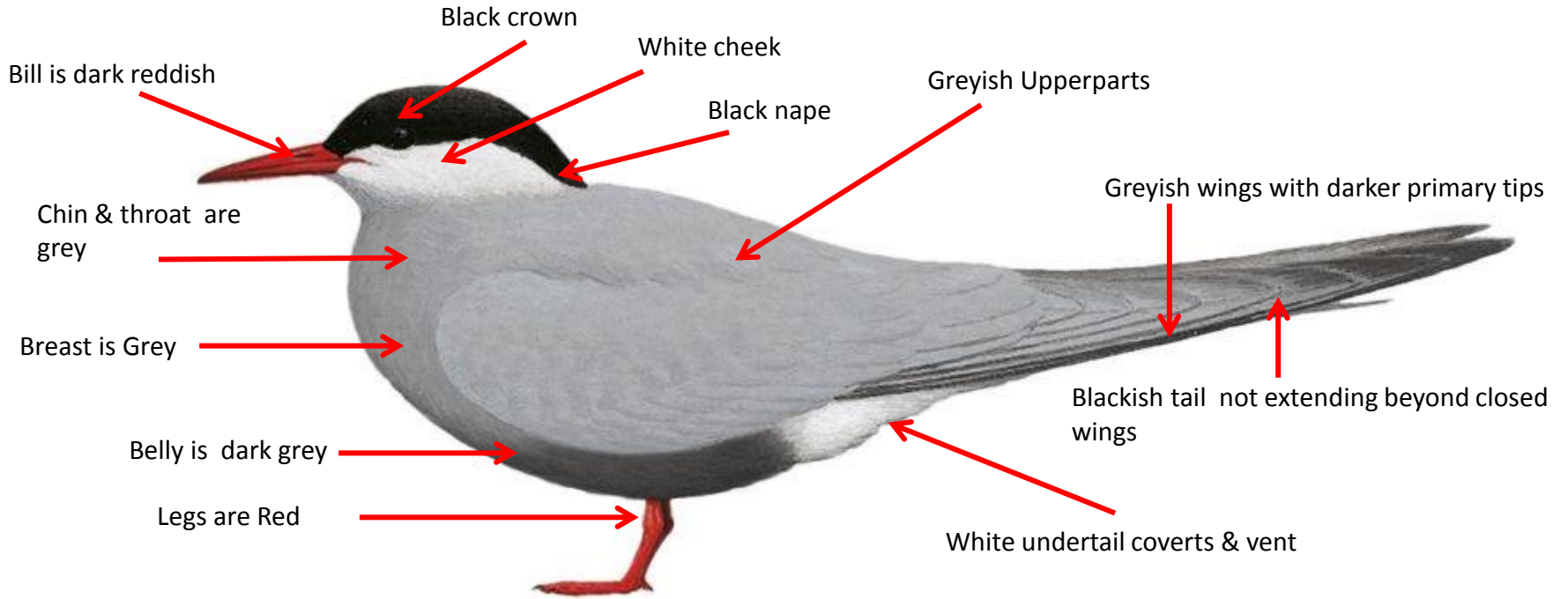
Difference from breeding

Important id point

**Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com**

Whiskered Tern Identification Tips

Whiskered Tern : *Chlidonias hybrida* : Breeds in UT of Kashmir ; Widespread winter visitor in India



White-cheeked Tern Identification Tips

White-cheeked Tern : *Sterna repressa*: Breeds of Maharashtra coast and Lakshwadeep in India

Bill is dark red at base with black tip

Black crown

White cheek

Dark ashy grey Upperparts

Black nape

Greyish wings with darker primary tips

Chin & throat are ashy grey

Breast is ashy Grey

Belly is dark ashy grey

Legs are bright red to dark brownish red

Dark ashy grey tail extending up to closed wings

Grey undertail coverts & vent

Forehead is white

Black or dark brown areas around eye from ear-coverts across nape

Black bill

Non-Breeding

Underparts are greyish white

Black legs



Reference : Birds of Indian Subcontinent Inskipp and Grimmett
www.HBW.com

White-winged Tern Identification Tips

White-winged Tern : *Chidonias leucopterus*: Widespread sporadic winter visitor in India

