

# The socio-economic impact of Australia's second Aleutian Tern record

## 1. What is the research study about?

We aim to find out how important the recent Aleutian Terns which have been observed by numerous birdwatchers at Old Bar, NSW are to our economy. We think the incredible interest is worth measuring to provide some economic information on the importance of conservation, particularly rare, vagrant birds. This in turn can provide valuable information to policy makers in how birdwatchers value their hobby and the diverse natural habitats required to sustain high avian biodiversity.

## 2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers: Richard T. Kingsford and Corey T. Callaghan, Centre for Ecosystem Science; School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UNSW Australia.

## 3. Should I take this survey?

The research study is looking to recruit people who have attempted to observe the Aleutian Terns in Old Bar, NSW. Participants need to be over the age of 18, to participate in this study.

## 4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

## 5. What does participation in this research require?

If you decide to take part in the research study, we will ask you to complete an online questionnaire. The questionnaire will ask you questions about your visit to view the Aleutian Terns in Old Bar, NSW. It should take between 5-10 minutes to complete.

## 6. What will happen to information about me?

This is an anonymous study. Submission of the online questionnaire is an indication of your consent. By clicking the 'I agree to participate' button you are providing your permission for the research team to collect and use information provided by you, for the research study. Your data will be kept for a period of 7 years after the project's completion. We will store information about you in a non-identifiable format at a UNSW data storage repository. Your information will only be used for the intended study. Researchers at UNSW are required to store their aggregated data in the UNSW data repository, this is a system called ResData. Once the aggregated data is deposited into this repository it will be retained in this system permanently. It will however be retained in a format where your identity will not be known.

## 7. How and when will I find out about the results of the research study?

The research team intend to publish the results of the research study in a variety of ways. All information published will be done in a way that will not identify you. If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by emailing Corey Callaghan ([c.callaghan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:c.callaghan@unsw.edu.au)). We will only use these details to send you the results of the research.

## 8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do this by closing the questionnaire. If you withdraw from the research we will destroy any information that has already been collected. Once you have submitted the questionnaire however, we will not be able to withdraw your responses as the questionnaire is anonymous.

## 9. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

### Research Team Contact

Name: Corey Callaghan

Position: PhD Student

Telephone: +61 0421 601 388

Email: [c.callaghan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:c.callaghan@unsw.edu.au)

## 10. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

## Complaints Contact

Position: Human Research Ethics Coordinator

Telephone: + 61 2 9385 6222

Email: [humanethics@unsw.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@unsw.edu.au)

HC Reference Number: HC17128

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- I have read the above and it has been provided to me in a language that I understand;
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- I understand that if necessary I can ask questions and the research team will respond to my questions.
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;

**\* Required**

1.

**I have read and understand the above and provide consent for the study. \****Check all that apply.*☐ I agree, start questionnaire*Skip to question 2.*

2.

**Are you at least 18 years old?***Mark only one oval.*☐ Yes☐ No *Stop filling out this form.*

3.

**Did you attempt to see the Aleutian Terns in Old Bar, NSW?***Mark only one oval.*☐ Yes☐ No *Stop filling out this form.*

4.

**Did you successfully see the terns? \****Mark only one oval.*☐ Yes☐ No

**5. How did you find out about the terns?**

Check all that apply.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Australian Twitchers Facebook page
- ☐ Other Facebook page
- ☐ Text/phone call
- ☐ email
- ☐ Birding Aus Listservs
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Other

6.

**If successful, what date did you first see the Tern? \***

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*Example: December 15, 2012*

7.

**How many times did you travel to see the terns? \****Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times or more

8.

**How much cumulative time did you spend at the site? \***

If you visited the tern location more than once,  
what was the total amount of time (in hours)  
spent birding at the site.

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9.

**What is your home post code? \***

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10.

**What mode of transportation did you use to see the bird? \***

Check all that apply.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Private Vehicle
- ☐ Rental Vehicle
- ☐ Plane
- ☐ Train
- ☐ Other: 

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11.

**Did your trip involve car-pooling (sharing rides with others)? \****Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12. **If you car-pooled, how many people total (including you) were in your travelling party?**

Leave blank if non-applicable.

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13. **Were the Aleutian Terns the sole reason for the trip? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

14. **Did your trip involve overnight stay? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes      *Skip to question 15.*
- ☐ No      *Skip to question 18.*

## Overnight stay

15. **How many nights did you stay?**

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16. **What type of accommodation did you use?**

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Friends/relatives home
- ☐ Hotel/Motel
- ☐ Holiday flat/unit
- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. **Please enter the post code of the accommodation in which you stayed.**

If you stayed in multiple locations for multiple nights, please list the post codes, separated by a semi-colon (e.g., "2430; 2580")

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18. **While on your trip, how did you eat? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Made own meals      *Skip to question 21.*
- ☐ Ate out
- ☐ Both: made own meals and ate out.

## Dining out

**19. What type of dining did you do? \***

Select all that apply.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Fast food
- ☐ Sit down
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**20. How many times did you dine out on your trip to see the bird? \***

\_\_\_\_\_

**21. Was this the first time you have seen Aleutian Tern? \****Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**22. Which of the following bird 'lists' do you keep? \***

Check all that apply.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ I don't keep bird lists
- ☐ Life list
- ☐ Australia list
- ☐ State list
- ☐ What is a bird 'list'?
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**23. Briefly describe (1000 characters or less) your motivation for travelling to see the terns.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**24. Which of the following best describes you.***Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Expert birder (can identify >300 Australian bird species without a field guide)
- ☐ Intermediate birder (can identify >100 but <300 Australian birds without using a field guide)
- ☐ Amateur birder (can identify <100 Australian birds without using a field guide)

**Sociodemographic variables**

Please remember that this survey is anonymous and your answers are fully confidential. We are trying to estimate the spending that the Aleutian Tern generated. By supplying us with your sociodemographic variables, we will better understand the economic generation by the Aleutian Terns. These questions are not required for completion of the survey and can be left blank.

**25. What is your age?**

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**26. What is your sex?***Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other: 

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**27. Marital status?***Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Married
- ☐ Single
- ☐ Other: 

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**28. What is your approximate hourly wage?**

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**29. What is your highest level of education?***Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ High School
- ☐ College
- ☐ Postgraduate
- ☐ Other

**30. Which best fits your current employment?***Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ Employed - full time
- ☐ Employed - part time
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Retired

## Economic Valuation

Please remember that this survey is anonymous and your answers are fully confidential. We are trying to estimate the spending that the Aleutian Tern generated. These questions are not required for completion of the survey and can be left blank.

**31. Estimate how much you spent on petrol.**

If you car-pooled and did not pay for petrol, please leave blank.

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**32. Estimate how much you spent on airfare.**

If appropriate.

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**33. Estimate how much you spent on meals.**

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**34. Estimate how much you spent on accommodation.**

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**35. Hypothetically, if there was a compulsory 'donation' of \$5 to view the bird, would you still have viewed the bird?**

The donation would be made to a non-governmental organization.

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

**36. Hypothetically, if there was a compulsory 'donation' of \$25 to view the bird, would you still have viewed the bird?**

The donation would be made to a non-governmental organization.

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

**37. Hypothetically, if there was a compulsory 'donation' of \$50 to view the bird, would you still have viewed the bird?**

The donation would be made to a non-governmental organization.

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

**38. Hypothetically, if there was a compulsory 'donation' of \$75 to view the bird, would you still have viewed the bird?**

The donation would be made to a non-governmental organization.

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

**39. Hypothetically, if there was a compulsory 'donation' of \$100 to view the bird, would you still have viewed the bird?**

The donation would be made to a non-governmental organization.

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

**40. Which of the following organizations do you belong to?**

Check all that apply.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ BirdLife Australia
- ☐ Local birding club
- ☐ Professional ornithological Society
- ☐ I don't belong to any type of bird-related organization
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional ecotourism information**

41.

**How often do you travel to see rare/vagrant birds in a year?**

By rare, we mean significant rarities that appear on a state's review list. If you are unsure what this means, skip this question.

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Never
- ☐ 1-3 times
- ☐ 3-7 times
- ☐ 7-10 times
- ☐ >10 times a year

42.

**Did you do any additional birding, while in the area? \****Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

43.

**Did you partake in any additional ecotourism related activities in the area? \****Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

44.

**If yes above, what type of ecotourism activities?**

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45.

**How long have you been birding?**

Approximate time in years.

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**Estimating potential numbers of people**



In order to ensure our economic estimates are accurate, we need to estimate the total number of people who visited the Aleutian Terns site. The following questions will help us to do this.

46. **Did you submit the observation to eBird?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

47. **Did you submit the observation to Birddata?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

48. **Did you indicate that you saw the bird on Facebook?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

49. **Approximately how many different birders did you see while looking at the tern?**

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## Further comments

50. **Please provide us with any further comments that you think might benefit our study.**

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