

servación de la colonia sería gestionar los medios para impedir el acceso de depredadores terrestres a las islas.

Palabras clave: aves acuáticas, charranes, pagaza piconegra, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, laguna de Pétrola, complejo lagunar de Pétrola, Corral Rubio y La Higuera, humedales de Albacete.

ABSTRACT

This article compiles and analyses the existing information on Common Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) in the province of Albacete (Castilla-La Mancha, SE of Spain), especially as far as reproduction is concerned. 660 records (period 1988-2021), corresponding to 131 localities (48 wetlands), basically the Pétrola, Corral-Rubio y La Higuera lagoon complex. Regarding reproduction, positive data were obtained from 25-29 breeding seasons of the thirty-four that the study covered, in fourteen wetlands (10 with confirmed reproduction). Generally, the species only nested in the Pétrola lagoon, being decisive the existence of two islands. Between 2010 and 2021, breeding occurred regularly over time (uninterrupted for 12 years). Uninterrupted breeding could be due, at least, to the increased availability of the islands as suitable and safe places to locate the colony. In relation to the number of couples, the figures for the second period would be somewhat lower than the average colony in Spain, although five hundred couples were exceeded in three seasons, minimum figure considered for large colonies in Spain. Therefore, during the last decade the colony of Common Gull-billed Tern in the Pétrola lagoon would have been consolidated and would be relevant at the national and regional levels from the point of view of its population size. A very important and fundamental aspect for the conservation of the Colony of Petrola would be to manage the means to prevent terrestrial predators from entering the islands.

Key words: wetland birds, Terns, Common Gull-billed Tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Pétrola lagoon, Pétrola, Corral-Rubio y La Higuera lagoon complex, wetlands of Albacete.