

Large billed Tern

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Large-billed Tern

Phaetusa simplex is a member of the gulls, terns, and skimmers family (*Laridae*), and one of the 454 species on the official Ohio bird list.

Scientific name	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>
Family	Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers — <i>Laridae</i>
Ohio difficulty code	6
Ohio status	not listed

Finding it. Difficulty code 6 means it is among the least expected review-list species — casual to accidental in Ohio. A code of 5 or 6 puts it on the Ohio Bird Records Committee review list, so a sighting needs documentation submitted to the OBRC before it counts toward the state record.

Related pages

- [Ohio Bird Checklist](#) — the full state list this page is drawn from, with every difficulty code and status
- [Ohio Bird Migration](#) — when this and everything else is moving, and where to stand
- [Ohio Birds](#) — every species page in this set

Sources

- **Ohio Ornithological Society**, "Official OOS Ohio Bird Checklist", November 2025 — the species, its scientific name, and its place in the state list.
- **Ohio Ornithological Society**, "Ohio Birding Checklist with Difficulty Codes", June 2024 revision — the difficulty code.
- **ODNR Division of Wildlife**, "Ohio's Listed Species", Publication 5356, updated June 2026 — the Ohio status.

Sourced via [ohio bird checklist](#), which carries the verified links. Verified 2026-08-15.