



THE CARL ZEISS AWARD



The Carl Zeiss Award is presented annually by *Carl Zeiss Ltd* to encourage the submission of photographs (transparencies or prints) to assist the British Birds Rarities Committee in its assessment of records. The winner receives his or her choice of *Zeiss* binoculars, which are presented at the British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water. *Carl Zeiss Ltd* also presents the runners-up, including all those whose photographs or documentary drawings of rarities are published in *British Birds*, with vouchers for six-month subscriptions to the journal.

This year's two finalists were:

Ren Hathway for Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* at the Great Pool, Tresco, Scilly, in August 1995.

Ms D. A. Jones for Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* at Seaforth, Merseyside, in July 1995.

As usual, the two judges assessed the merits of all the submitted photographs, together with comments made in writing during record circulation by individual members of the BBRC and by the Committee's Secretary, Michael J. Rogers. The identities of the photographers are not known to the judges until after the winner has been selected, so the fact that Ren Hathway won The Carl Zeiss Award in



Plate 160. Winner of THE CARL ZEISS AWARD: second-summer Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Seaforth, Merseyside, 30th-31st July 1995 (*D. A. Jones*)

1993 (*Brit. Birds* 86: 565-566, plate 196) did not influence the judges' final choice of Dot Jones's Gull-billed Tern as the winning picture.

This Gull-billed Tern stayed for a couple of days, and was seen by many observers as it flew back and forth over the freshwater pools at Seaforth Nature Reserve. This species is, however, often difficult to see in Britain, one-observer fly-by reports creating difficulties not only for the observer, and for would-be twitchers, but also for the BBRC when the inevitably brief notes are assessed. In this case, however, the excellent notes submitted by Terry Meehan and Gavin Thomas were augmented by Dot Jones's superb, pin-sharp flight shot (plate 160). Dot is a Multimedia Technician at John Moores University, but had not previously won a photographic competition.

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