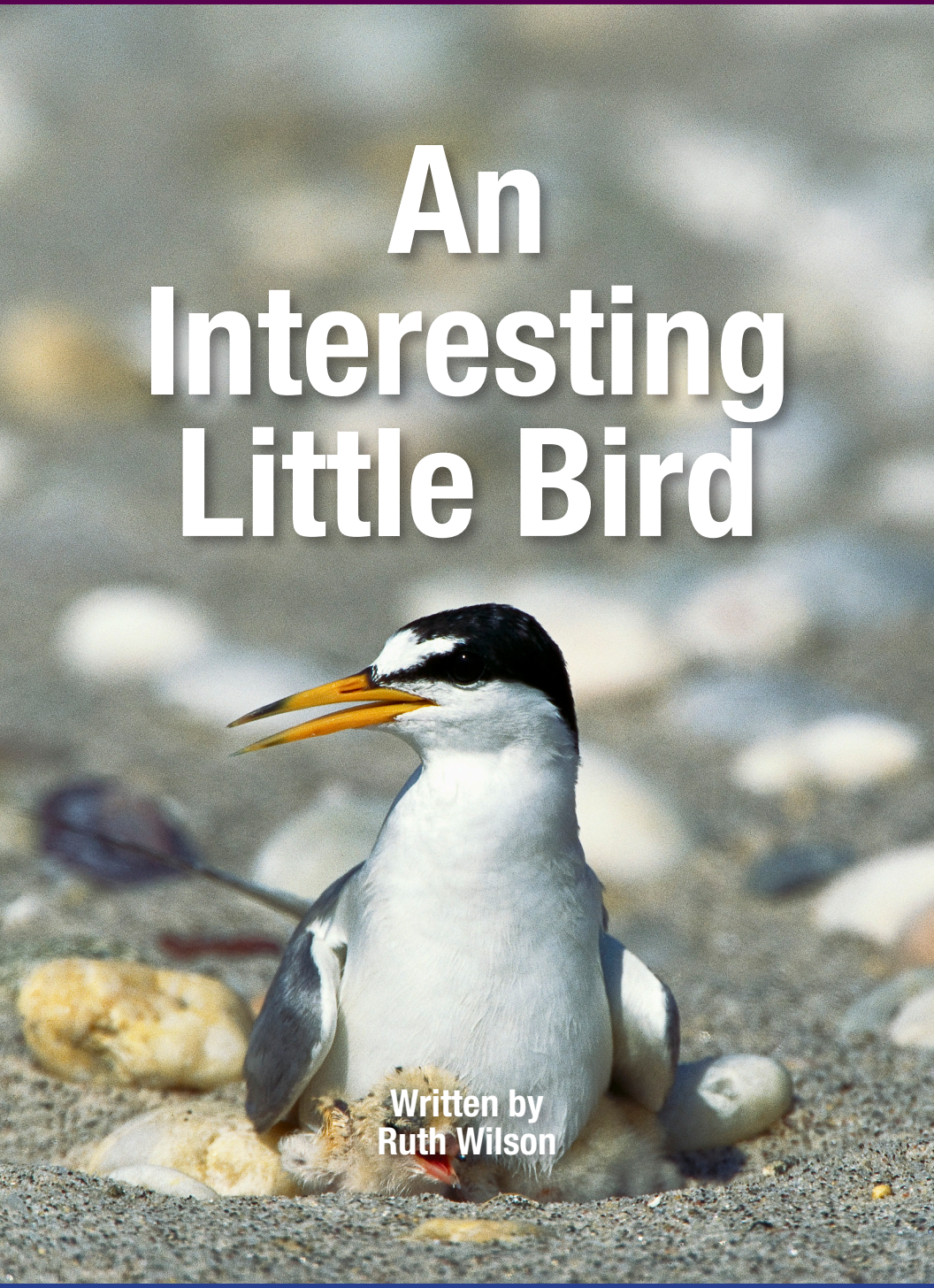
California Connections

An Interesting Little Bird



Written by
Ruth Wilson

California Education and the Environment Initiative
Science Standard 1.2.c.

An Interesting Little Bird

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Every living thing needs a home.

Some homes are made of wood
or stones.

Others are made of sticks and mud.

Some animals make their homes in trees.

Others make their homes in the ground.

One little bird lives by the water.

This little bird is the California least tern.

The least tern eats small fish and small crabs. It walks around in the water looking for food.

The least tern must live in a place where it can find food and shelter.

The least tern makes a nest in the sand.
It lays its eggs in this nest.

The baby terns need a safe place to eat and sleep. They stay in the nest until they can walk.

Once they can walk, the baby terns go with their mother to find food near the nest.

When the days get cold, the least terns fly to a warmer place. When it gets warmer, the least terns come back to the sand to make new nests.

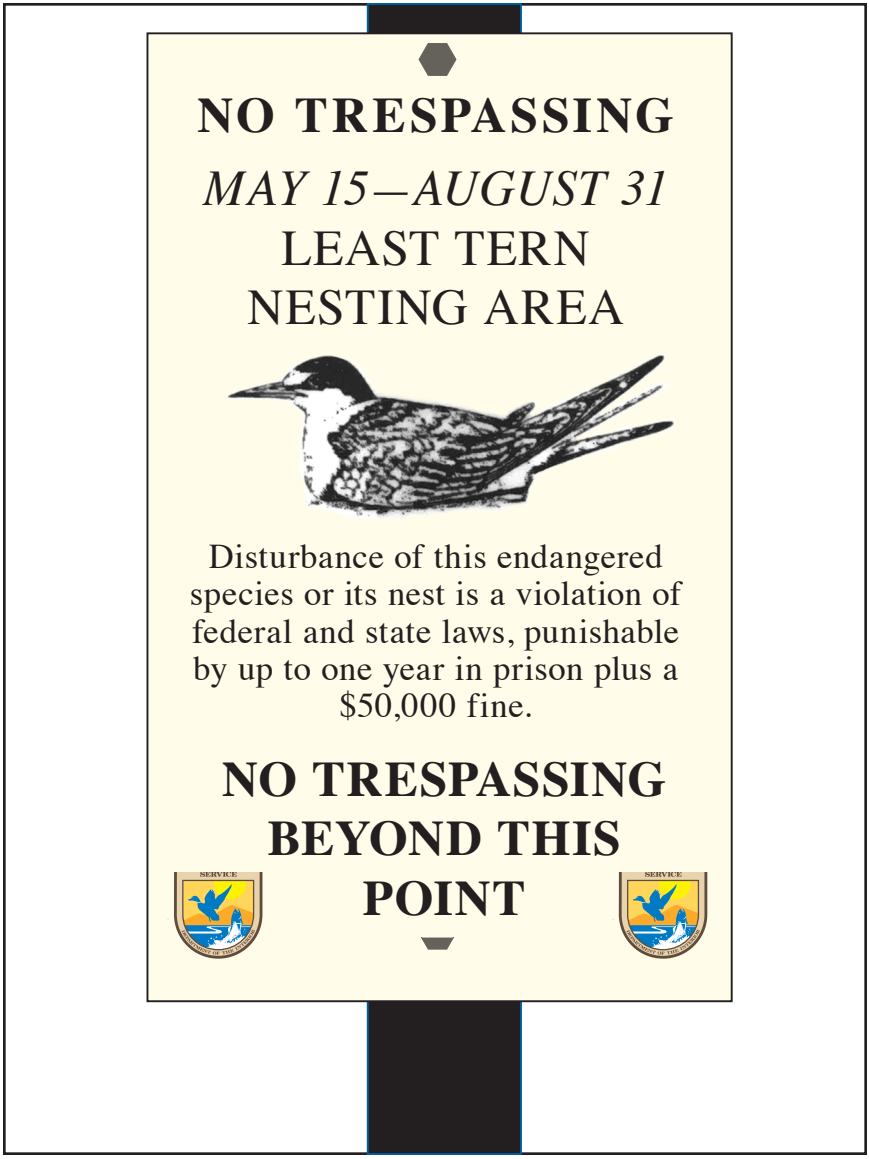
For some time, people have been watching the least terns.

Some terns have changed where they are making their homes.

In California, there are many roads close to the ocean. People use these roads every day. They go to work, and they go home again.

People like to visit the beaches in California, too. Some people build houses right on the beach.

That means it is getting harder for the California least terns to find shelter. They need quiet, sandy beaches to make their homes.



Today, some places in California are special. They are places for terns to use.

In these special places, people put fences around sandy areas where the terns have made their nests. The fences protect the eggs and the baby terns.

The least terns find shelter in these special places. They can walk in the water and look for things to eat.

People like seeing the terns come back to these special places again and again. They know that in these places the terns are safe.

Unit Title: **Finding Shelter**
Grade: **1**
Science Standard 1.2.c.
Supports ELA Standard: Reading 1.1.17.

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