

23-73-118

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accepted

8/12/73

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: Least Tern *Sterna albifrons* 2. Number: 1
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

3. Location: Lake Maria 5 miles east of Walsenburg, Colo

4. Date(s): August 22, 1970 5. Time bird seen: afternoon
several minutes

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):

At least one small white tern, smaller and more slender than the several hundred black terns which were flying over the lake at the time. I noticed it because I had seen 2 the year before at CHS lakes near Pueblo

7. Description of voice, if heard: none remembered

8. Description of behavior: typical tern flight - seemed faintly in comparison to the black tern

9. Habitat - general: small high water lake

specific: some salt water, mud flats, prairie

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:

All other terns are appear much larger in comparison to the least tern

11. Distance (how measured?): probably 300 feet - estimated

12. Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):

The light was good - birds were easy to view - other sky condition

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: not recorded

Least tern seen once in 1969 - I have seen numerous black terns

15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?

It was the first time it was recorded near Walsenburg

16. Other observers: second time near Pueblo

none

17. Did others agree with your identification?

none

18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

none

19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation:

Peterson's A field guide to the birds

Birds of North America - Golden Press

20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

None

Signature: Dave Griffiths Street Address: 17 Solis Drive

Date Prepared: April 9, 1973 City and State: Pueblo, Colo 81005

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)