

Accepted GR 9/25/74

Species: LEAST TERN Sterna albifrons
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): JUNE 27 + 29, JULY 14 Time Bird Seen: 6:30 AM to 6:40 AM

Locality: DYE RESERVOIR

Nearest Town: Rocky Ford County: Otero

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 7x35 Bushnell binoculars, 400mm telephoto lens on Pentax camera

Light Conditions: excellent

Distance from Bird (how measured): 40 ft - camera focus

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: imm.

Overall Appearance and Size: A very small tern smaller than or at least less bulky than the killdeer that was beside it.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): black, very faintly lighter at base

Legs (shape and color):

Crown and Forehead: white Eye (color): dark

Nape: black Face: black streak thru eye Throat: white

Breast and Sides: white

Belly and Flanks: white

Undertail Coverts:

Back: gray

Wings: dark gray with a white trailing edge

Underwings:

Rump: gray Uppertail Coverts:

Upper Side of Tail: white

Under Side of Tail: white

Shape of Tail: slightly forked

Voice: -

Behavior: Flew looking at water like a tern, wingbeats deep & fairly rapid. Drove forward water once but pulled up & barely touched it. When alighting, held wings above back for a second.

Habitat: Dye Reservoir, Rocky Ford

Prior Experience with this Species: seen on Georgia & Florida ^{beaches} in mature plumage in summer of '65.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? The only other Tern that is seen the least in size is the Black Tern. Its immatures ~~have~~ ^{have} gray tails & uniformly colored wings.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during ☒ after observation; Memory _____

Signed: Stanley W. Oswald Street Address: 907 W. Washington Ave

Date Prepared: June 30, 1974 Town and State: Rocky Ford, Colorado ZIP 81067

Return to: JACK REDDIE, 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80120

Accepted JK 9/25/74

Species: LEAST TERN

Sterna albi frons

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): July 14, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 10:55 A.M. to 10:58 A.M.-MDT

Locality: Dye Reservoir

Nearest Town: Rocky Ford

County: Otero

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Stan W. Oswald</u>	<u>907 West Washington Avenue, Rocky Ford</u>	<u>81067</u>
<u>Dave Griffiths</u>	<u>17 Solar Drive, Pueblo, Colorado</u>	<u>81003 561-2974</u>

Optical Equipment: 10x50 Bushnell Binoculars

Light Conditions: Clear, bright. Sun coming from directly overhead.

Distance from Bird (how measured): 100 feet to 200 feet (estimated)

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Breeding Adult

Overall Appearance and Size: Extremely small tern; overall plumage white with black cap. Flew with very quick, almost butterfly-like wing beats with head pointed downward.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): Small pointed, straight and yellow

Legs (shape and color): not noted

Crown and Forehead: Crown black; forehead white

Eye (color): ?

Nape: Black

Face: white

Throat: white

Breast and Sides: white

Belly and Flanks: white

Undertail Coverts: white

Back: light gray

Wings: light gray to whitish; outer two or three wing primaries dark (black).

Underwings: whitish

Rump: white

Uppertail Coverts: white

Upper Side of Tail: white

Under Side of Tail: white

Shape of Tail: Slightly forked

Voice: a very rapid "kitti-itti-itti" etc

Behavior: Flew in from middle of reservoir on very quick wing-beats in the company of a two Forster's Tern: circled and fluttered about and flew out.

Habitat: Fresh water marsh on high plains, water level down considerably.

Prior Experience with this Species: years of experience with literally "thousands" on breeding territories on Long Island, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. Have seen regularly in northern Illinois and once before in Colorado - Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County, 9-2-1972

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Young Forster's Terns don't have yellow bills. All other adult terns eliminated on size and bill color. Gulls eliminated on size, shape and wing patterns.

NOTE: Stan Oswald reported seeing this bird at same location on a couple of occasions about two weeks ago and obtained pictures.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during ☒ after ☒ observation; Memory ☐

Signed: Jack Reddall

Street Address: 4450 South Alton Street

Date Prepared: 7/16/1974

Town and State: Englewood, Colorado ZIP 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Accepted 9/25/74

Species: Least Tern (Vernacular Name) Sterna albifrons (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): July 28, 1974 Time Bird Seen: 4:45 pm to 5:00 pm

Locality: O Dye Reservoir

Nearest Town: Rocky Ford County: Otero

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Carolyn Simpson</u>	<u>247 Melrose, Pueblo Colo</u>	<u>543-4669</u>

Optical Equipment: 7 x 35 binoculars 32 x power Bushnell spotting scope
 Light Conditions: partly cloudy clouds high - light was good
 Distance from Bird (how measured): estimated I was able to approach to within 50 feet
 Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: juvenile or non breeding
 Overall Appearance and Size: seemed about 2/3 size of Forster's Tern. It was with and noticeably smaller than Black Terns near by - small tern small thin dark tern bill
 Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):
 Bill (shape and color): dark, small, thin sharp pointed tern fashion
 Legs (shape and color): dark
 Crown and Forehead: white Eye (color): dark
 Nape: white to gray darker Face: black stripe from eye Throat: white
 Breast and Sides: white
 Belly and Flanks: white
 Undertail Coverts: white
 Back: grayish back and scapulars
 Wings: primaries dark fresh gray - secondary flight feathers white
 Underwings: didn't see
 Rump: grayish Uppertail Coverts: white
 Upper Side of Tail: grayish
 Under Side of Tail: white
 Shape of Tail: fanned in flight with slight fork
 Voice: didn't hear

Behavior: not resting on mud flat with other terns, Forster's & Black - when flushed seemed much smaller and more rapid wing beat
 Habitat: mud flats around a shallow fresh water lake
 Prior Experience with this Species: I have seen it in Florida & Texas as well as at least 3 other places in Colorado and I have observed it in varying numbers on at least 2 occasions at Great Bend, Kanab & Close Kanab
 How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? It is much smaller, fainter than any other tern including Black - bill noticeably smaller than Forster's and Black (other) in size. In direct comparison with Forster's bill it only about 2/3 size - also noticeably smaller than Black. Black stripe on back looked different than face markings on Forster's - in flight back pattern was much different besides size - the base of the wings had a white band on rear of wings
 This Report was Written From: Notes made during x after x observation; Memory

Signed: Dave C. Wright Street Address: 17 Solar Drive
 Date Prepared: July 29, 1974 Town and State: Pueblo, Colo ZIP 81005