

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

A

23-80-63

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
AMERICAN BIRDS

Species: Least Tern
(Vernacular name)

Sterna albigrons
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 8/17/80 Time Bird Seen: 6:10 PM to 6:20 PM

Locality: Loveland, Larimer County, Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 9x30 'scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: imm.

Light conditions: fair cloudy

Distance from bird, and how measured: 30 yards estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

stood on sandbar with Forster's Terns

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
sandbar on south end of large lake

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Small, with dark line through eye, white forehead, dark neck brown back, white underside, black bill

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Forster's Tern and others- were with ~~tern~~ and were nearly twice the size of tern

Prior experience with this and similar species:
I have seen it on the Texas Coast twice.
Forster's Terns summer in our area.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after x observation; from memory___.

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Signature: Mark Lockwood

Return to:

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