

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Least tern(s) ; Sterna antillarum
(Vernacular name) (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.

Dates (s): 6/17/85 Time Bird Seen: 11:25 am to 12:30 pmLocality: Blue Lake (Adobe Reservoir)
Ashtabula CO, Bent County, CO
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 9x30 Nikon binocularsIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Minolta SRT-202
500 mm Telephoto mirror lensNumber of birds seen: 4 Sex: ? Plumage: AlternateLight conditions: very goodDistance from bird, and how measured: Closest - 15 feet

Describe the bird's overall behavior: The 1st bird that I saw was flying close to shore hunting by hovering about 30' above the water. Later I saw 4 birds together "resting" or sitting on a mound. When I approached the birds & dived close to me, in what seemed an effort to chase me away. Having been regurgitated upon by other tern species, and since resting on a mound approximately 3m x 8m in size. It was similar to a dredged area.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: It seemed apparent that these birds were defending a territory, especially a sparsely vegetated mound approximately 3m x 8m in size. It was similar to a dredged area.

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

2 days earlier and finder of a single bird Richard Bunn, Wade
Leightner sp., David Blue, Linda Blue, Larry Holsey
White-rumped
Sanderling

I took 3 photographs and left the area to photograph the

I have been established for that area. I took 3 photographs and left the area to photograph the

on dissatisfied. I did, that Least terns used as a nesting colony. The mound was close to Blue Lake and the water. It is a sand mound.

APPENDIX 1I Continued

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.

I did not make careful notes of this bird, feeling comfortable with its identification. I looked for a yellowish, black tipped bill, black cap + white forehead. The legs were yellowish and the leading edge of the primaries formed a dark bar. The tail was short and forked.

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

4 birds hovered over my head 15-40 feet in a characteristic tern fashion when in defending nest or nest territories. They scolded me with a high pitched 4 syllable chipping call.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

This is the only small N. American tern with a mostly yellow bill, white forehead, black cap and yellow legs.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I worked 6 summers on Assateague Is. Nat'l Seashore & 1 summer on Cumberland Island Nat'l Seashore where we had large Least tern colonies.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory ✓.

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Signature: William R Maynard

Return Form To:

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