

accepted

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Least Tern | Sterna antillarum
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date ~~of~~: May 15, 1992 (Harold Holt's earliest date is May 20)Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: BreedingLocality: Blue Lake (formerly Adobe Creek Reservoir) Elevation: 4120 feetNearest town: Las Animas County: BentTime ~~of~~ observed: 3 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 3 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Cloudy - bird to NW of me, Sun to SWOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X binocularsDistance, and how measured: First seen from my vehicle 500' away - I walked to 150 ft before it flew offIf photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Flying with fast wing beat. Feeding along the east shoreline.
Windy afternoon

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

A small tern with a prominent yellow bill and black cap with a prominent white forehead. I couldn't see the feet and did not notice black wedge on outer primaries. Pale gray wings and white breast.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

No sound

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Seen on the east side of Blue Lake between the marina + place the Swallows "Blue Lake has been drawn way down so there was a lot of grass and small bush remnants along the shoreline and into the edge of the water.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

When I first saw the bird - smaller size and faster wing beat than Forster's or Common Tern. As I approached I could see the yellow bill. Forster's + Common have a red bill. The white forehead was more prominent than Forster's or Common.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen several Least Terns in Colorado and many Forster's + Common Terns.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

immediately

b) after observation:

National Geographic Birds of North America

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: May 18, 1992

Reporting observer:

Dan Bridges

Signature:

D. W. Dan Bridges

Address:

1925 J. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora Colorado 80014

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
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