

APPENDIX II

23-93-116

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Least Tern; 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): 28-29 April 1988 Time Bird Seen: various to am. & p.m. for ~ 1 hr.
7:22-7:40 p.m.Locality: Hart's Basin
Eckert, Colo. (Delta County)
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binos; ~40x B&L scope.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Not known Plumage: breedingLight conditions: various; overcast & sunDistance from bird, and how measured: 50-500 yds.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Occ. perched at lake edge. Usually seen foraging at ~ 20 ft or so over lake surface. Often diving quickly into water. Wing flapping very brisk. Rarely hovering; flight somewhat swift-like.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Open lake & lake edge.

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

Conn Dexter

APPENDIX 11 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. Bird small, about 7" long. Gray above and white below. Very dark gray outer 2 or 3 primaries. Tail short, forked, pointed tips; often held together in a single point. Black cap with a white wedge in front of the eye. Bill medium-large ~~with~~ and yellow with slight orangish tinge.

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

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Was tern by white below / gray above plumage and pointed wings, differing feeding habits.

Too small to be any other tern. Also combination of white forehead & black cap; black outer primaries; long yellow bill is specific.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen all regularly - occurring N.A. terns and Least Tern many times.

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

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 860 SHARPE C. DELTA, CO 81416

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205