

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM
RESULTS: _____

✓ rec'd 11/25/97

ACCEPTED 6-1

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 20 September 1997NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: Unknown PLUMAGE: AlternateEXACT LOCATION: SE corner of Lower Latham ReservoirCOUNTY: Weld NEAREST TOWN: Greely ELEVATION: 5000'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 1.5 hours TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: 1200 → 1330 and briefly @ 1700

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

Hira Walker Joe Himmel* * - should have sent report in.

LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:

Completely Overcast - good diffuse light

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

Low Telescope 20x

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED):

100 m at closest approachWAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: - IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? -

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? _____

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

over Lower Latham reservoir

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

This bird would fly back and forth continuously at a height of 5 to 10 m. It would occasionally swoop down and pick something off the surface. Compared directly to Forster's tern which was much larger and heavier bodied w/ a heavier fly flight style.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE, AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES, OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

A small Sterna tern that was primarily gray over the entire body. Black cap, white under and upper-tail coverts + tail, and white cheek were the only part of the body that weren't med gray. Bill Bl. Tail ^{very} long and appeared all white. Small bill and head. Wings mostly med gray. Leading edge to 10th primary appeared dark gray/black. Dark thin trailing edge to outer 5-7 primaries was obvious from below. The very gray body and primary pattern eliminated Common Tern, Roseate Tern, and Forster's Tern the only remote possibilities.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

The included sketch illustrates the overall pattern of this bird and should eliminate the above mentioned species.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

Viewed previously on the W. Coast on 2 occasions.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

National Geographic - During Advanced Birding } After Observation
Sea birds: ID Guide }
Sea birds: ID Guide

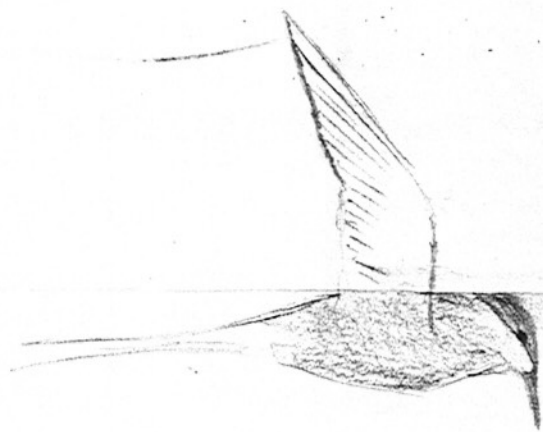
THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING X OR AFTER _____ OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY _____.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 25 November 1997

REPORTING OBSERVER: Brian P. Gibbons

SIGNATURE: B. Gibbons

SEND REPORT TO: MARK JANOS, 10 SEDUM COURT, PUEBLO, CO 81001



Arctic Tern illustration by Brian P. Gibbons
20 Sept 1997 Lower Lathan

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-RC FILE #: 1997-46
red 10-197

RESULTS : _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: ARCTIC TERN Sterna paradisaea
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 9-20-97

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: UNKNOWN PLUMAGE: ALTERNATE

EXACT LOCATION: LOWER LATHAM RES.

COUNTY: WELD NEAREST TOWN: LASALLE ELEVATION: 4850'

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 35 MIN. TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 3:00-3:35 P.M.
APP.

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:

BRIAN GIBBONS, HIRA ? , FROM CBO.

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

BRIAN & HIRA AT AN EARLIER HOUR. IT WAS THEY WHO NOTIFIED ME.

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

DROVE TO SE EDGE OF LAKE, LOOKING N AND NW WITH SUN IN BACK OF OBSERVERS. LATER GOT "KICKED OUT" - NOT A GOOD PLACE TO TRY TO GO!

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

KOWA SCOPE - 20X TO 40X
BAUSCH & LOMB ELITES - 8X42

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): HARD TO ESTIMATE - 50-70 YARDS

WAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? NO IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? _____

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? ~

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

FLYING OVER LAKE, PERIODICALLY DIVING. DID NOT SEE BIRD PERCHED (SITTING)

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

BIRD'S FLIGHT WAS VERY GRACEFUL AND BUOYANT (SUBJECTIVE, I KNOW) APP. 20-30 METERS FROM WATER, OCCASIONALLY DIVING.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

A MEDIUM, ALTERNATE PLUMAGED TERN: BLACK CAP, COLOR OF BILL NOT DETERMINED, BUT NOTED THAT IT WAS SMALL, AS SIZE OF FORSTER'S. NOTED EXTREME LENGTH OF TAIL STREAMERS. VERY SHORT HEAD PROJECTION IN FRONT OF WINGS. FROM TIP OF BILL TO VENT AREA ROUGHLY = TO VENT AREA TO TIP OF TAIL STREAMERS. BODY VERY GRAY UP TO WHITE CHEEK AREA. UPPER WING WERE UNIFORMLY GRAY TO VISIBLE TIP (COULD NOT SEE EXTREME TIP OF PRIMARIES) UNDERWING WERE BRIGHT WHITE TO THE TIP, WITH A THIN BLACK TRAILING EDGE TO PRIMARIES. PROFILE VERY UNIQUE FOR ME, WITH TAIL STREAMERS GIVING A VERY ATTENUATED APPEARANCE. I HAVE STUDIED KAUFMAN'S DISCUSSION OF THIS GROUP OF TERNS (COMMON, ROSEATE, FORSTER'S, ARCTIC) IN "ADVANCED BIRDING", AND I REALIZE I HAVE NOT REFERRED TO A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT I.D. ELEMENTS. I HAVE SIMPLY WRITTEN WHAT I WAS ABLE TO SEE, GIVEN THE DISTANCE AND A PAIR OF OLDER EYES.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

FORSTER'S TERN — WOULD BE IN BASIC PLUMAGE THIS DATE
COMMON TERN — GREATER HEAD PROJECTION, SHORTER TAIL STREAMERS, WOULD SHOW DARK WEDGE NEAR TIP OF UPPER WING, DARKER UPPER PRIMARIES, WIDER BLACK TRAILING EDGE OF UNDERWING PRIMARIES.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

HAVE SEEN A.T. OFF CALIFORNIA COAST ON SEVERAL TRIPS, OTHER SMALL TERNS IN COLORADO AND OTHER AREAS INLAND.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA (NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC)
SEABIRDS - PETER HARRISON
KAUFMAN - ADVANCED BIRDING

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING _____ OR AFTER X
OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY _____

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: SEPT. 22, 1997

REPORTING OBSERVER: JOE HIMMEL

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