

Species: LEAST TERN  
(Vernacular name)STERNA ALBIFRONS  
(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): JUNE 3, 1981 Time Bird Seen: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_Locality: FISH SPRINGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - CALLAO, JUAB,  
UTAH.  
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 8 X 40 FIELD GLASSES

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNK. Plumage: BREEDINGLight conditions: CLEARDistance from bird, and how measured: IT CAME AS CLOSE AS 40 YDS.Describe the bird's overall behavior: WAS SEEN FISHING OVER AN IMPOUNDMENT BETWEEN  
30 + 50 FEET HIGH DIVING + CATCHING MINNOWS. THEN FLYING AROUND +  
COMING BACK AND FISHING AGAIN.Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: AS MENTION ABOVE HABITAT  
WAS REFUGE IMPOUNDMENT - OPEN WATER 2-3 FEET INTERSPERSED WITH CATTAIL  
+ BULLRUSH.Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):  
GLENN ELLISON REFUGE MANAGER - FISH SPRINGS NWR - DON'T BELIEVE  
HE IDENTIFIED INDEPENDENTLY BUT HE SAW ALL THE CHARACTERISTICS  
AS I CALLED THEM OUT.

links 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. GLENN, HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW - AND I WERE DRIVING DOWN THE REFUGE DIKE WHEN WE SAW THIS TERN WHICH I SAID LOOKED VERY SMALL + GLENN AGREED SAYING IT WAS A LOT SMALLER THAN A FORSTER'S TERN. WE STOPPED AND LOOKED FOR IT. I SAW IT AT SOME DISTANCE, SAW ITS SHALLOW FORKED TAIL + SMALL SIZE, ALSO NOTED A DARK MANTLE WITH VERY DARK PRIMARIES. AS IT CAME NEARER SAW THE BLACK CAP + WHITE FOREHEAD WITH WHITE STRIP OVER EYE. HAD A BLACK STRIP THRU EYE MEETING WITH BLACK CAP COMING DOWN BACK OF NECK. THE BILL WAS YELLOW WITH A BLACK TIP. I CALLED THESE CHARACTERISTICS OUT TO GLENN AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED SEEING THEM.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: NONE HEARD

List similar species and how you eliminated them: FORSTER'S TERN WAS ONLY TERN SEEN OUT THERE, WAS TOLD BY SMALLER SIZE SHORTER TAIL, LESS DEEPLY FORKED, WHITE STRIP OVER EYE + BLACK STRIP THRU EYE + YELLOW BILL BLACK AT TIP.

Prior experience with this and similar species: HAVE SEEN THIS SPECIES ON EAST COAST YEARLY FROM 1969 - 1977 IN FLORIDA, MASSACHUSETTS, + VIRGINIA.

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

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