

Documentation Form

entered

Unusual Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: (one) Caspian Tern

Location: Lock 16 on Mississippi River

Habitat: River

Date: Time: Length of observation: June 30, 1999 ; Six PM CDT, About two Min. in view

Name and Address: Gerald White, 1505 East Fifth Street, Muscatine, IA, 52761 319/263-3464

Other Observers: none

Description of bird: A large tern, black crown, thick orange bill, flash of black in the primary during wing beat, the tail had a shallow fork, the remainder of the parts were light gray.

Similar species and how eliminated: Was not a Gull because of the feeding pattern, the bird was diving in the water. Forsters Tern is smaller and has smaller bill. Royal Tern has smaller bill and tail has deeper notch.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No other observers, but I did not see legs or feet and did not note the forehead. With out this information I was sure of the ID.

Viewing conditions (light, distance, optics): sun behind me, 150 Yds. away, 10X Elites

Previous experience with this species and similar ones: I have seen many Caspian Terns, several Forster's Terns and a few Royal Terns

References and persons consulted before writing description: NGF Third edition, no consultation

How long before field notes made? This form completed? Notes made about one hour after sighting, form completed 7/13/1999

Gerald White