


Least Tern (1) imm. plumage
Willow Slough in NE Mills County, Iowa
Aug 2, 1978 late Afternoon.

" Small white bird that flies nearly like a swallow + dives in the water's surface. Does not appear as long-winged or big as a Black Tern. [35+ Black Terns were present]. Maybe it is, though. White below, light gray above, with outer primaries + front of wing dark above.  Head white, line behind eye."

" That least Tern was fluttering. The bird had a fast wing beat, hiked to dive straight down + climb up almost as steeply.

Habitat: a shallow lake. It was feeding near water plants.

All other white terns are bigger than Black Terns. The least Tern differed from the Black Terns in size, color, + most of all behavior - rate of wing beats, the way it dove.

Distance - 100 ft? ^{+ further - flew back + forth.} estimated. It was usually in the nearest open channel, before the mass of weeds in the center of the lake.

7x35 binoculars + 20x binoculars

Late afternoon, sun behind me + shining on birds. I don't remember the weather, but could see all the way across the slough.

Birds of N. America was consulted after the description was written.

This ~~desc~~ is being written 3 months after the sighting but the description quoted above was written.

while the bird was still on sight, & the note on
behaviour was written that evening.

Barbara L Wilson

19 November 1958

Rt 1, Box 41

Hastings, La 5-15-40

I had never seen a least Tern before, ~~there~~ but
I've seen many Forsters & unidentified Forsters --
like Terns.

I had heard of Terns but I had never seen one. I had
heard that they were a kind of bird that was very
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