

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 fluttery. The bird had a fast wing beat, liked 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 ~~good~~ ~~bad~~ ~~ways~~ stills in sight, & the wrote on
behaviors was written that evening.

Accorded him \$100.00

Barbara L Wilson

19 November 1958
and an egg turned up, Box 41
Cost most \$18 + 78. I am sending
which added to my
I had never seen a Least Tern before, ~~but~~ but
have seen many Forsters & Sooty Terns like these.

I called M.T. Cottrell for help.
He said the ~~nest~~ was at about 40 feet
about a mile away.
Came back

about December 4th, ideal weather in basketball
flying afternoons

met T and M. They brought the gun and M.D.
We arrived about 40 minutes later and M.D.
had given permission to remove the nest
so he right off

about 40 minutes later, M.D. came out with a
gun and a trap. He had a trap set up on the
ground for meadow larks. He said it was a
adult or half grown bird

had been in the rose + had second eggs

when I picked them off and was not for it so
M.D. said he had a trap set up and meadow larks
Landsat but no one found

It took me many minutes to find a good
nesting place, but I did. Up to 500
feet above sea level, there was a good

place all the time & I found a good nest
there was a good nest