

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Common Tern

How Many?1-11(1-5 ad. and 1-6 imm.)

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co. (Oak Grove Beach and the Sandpiper Beach)

Habitat?perched on sandy beach or flying over lake

Date?5 Aug-27 Oct 1986

Time?variable

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:Bob Myers, Beth and Mark Proescholdt, m.ob.

Description of bird:The adult birds were identified by the darker outer primaries(as seen in flight) and by the brighter colored legs on resting birds. Juvenile birds were identified by the dark shoulder bar, the black cap(not an eye spot), and by the generally browner body coloration.

Similar species and how eliminated:The field marks discussed above eliminate Forster's Tern.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Most observations were made at fairly close range(usually less than 50 yards) and in good light. Most observations were made with a 20x spotting scope and Nikon 8 x 23 binoculars.

Previous experience with species:I have seen many Common and Forster's terns in Iowa and in other states.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?form written on 24 Nov