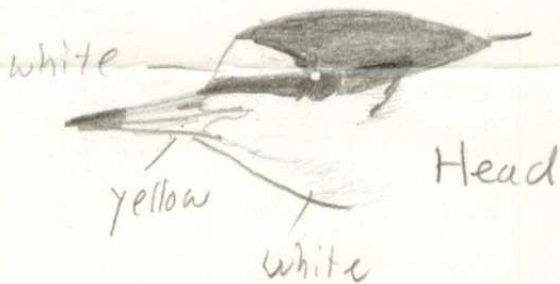


DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Little Tern How many? 2
 Location? Decatur Bend River Access. (WNW of Blencoe) Monona Co. IA
 Type of habitat? Ax bow -- shallow sandy areas, riparian willow.
 When? date(s): June 3 1982 time: 11:45 am to 12:15 pm
 Who? your name and address: JOE P. Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas IA
52160
 others with you: NA
 others before or after you: NA

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Small white tern, with yellow bill, black cap with white frontal head-patch. Wings were light gray with outer two primaries being darker. Wing beats were rapid, yet tern-like. Tail was forked, but not nearly so as that of Forster's Tern. Hovered kingfisher-like.



Bird was seen closely, but in flight only.
 Call sounded similar to Forster's Tern.
 Similar species and how eliminated:

Other white terns are larger with more deeply forked tails

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Excellent: Bright sun light.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Yes I have seen the species in North Carolina.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NA

How long before field notes made? ? this form completed? 2 hours

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Joe Schaufenbuel