

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Little Tern How many? 1Location? 2 1/2 mi. S. of Westfield, Plymouth Co., IA (NW quarter Sec. 12, Sioux Township)Type of habitat? 2 acre farm pond surrounded by ungrazed brome,When? date(s): June 24 1982 time: 7:17 to 7:27Who? your name and address: JOE Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas IAothers with you: NAothers 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 tern about the size of or slightly larger than a Purple Martin. The underparts of body, wings and tail were white. Bill was yellow with black tip. There was a white frontal patch surrounded by a black crown, head to nape, wings were gray with outer two primaries on each wing being dark on upper surface. Tail was white and forked, less so than Forster's Tern. Flight was distinct as the wing beats were rapid. Bird dived into water to catch minnows. Feet were yellowish.

Similar species and how eliminated: Other white, fork-tailed, black-capped terns are larger with deeper fork in tail, orange or red billed and have orangish colored feet.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

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

Excellent light bird was viewed as close as an estimated 175 feet with 7x35 Bushnell Custom Binnoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen several times previously and I am familiar with Common and Forster's Tern

References and persons consulted before writing description:

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

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Joe Schaufenbuel