

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Forster's Tern How many? 1
Location? Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth Co., Ia. where auto-tour road
Crosses East to West
Type of Habitat? Marsh, open water pools on either side of dike.
When? date(s): 11 April, 1988 time: 10:00(est) to 10:02(est) AM
Who? your name and address: Matthew Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, Ia. 50511
Others with you: none
Others before or after you: none

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A slender white bird with black cap, forked tail, red bill, and gray upper wings flew at me, into the wind. It passed by, and continued north out of sight. The wingtips were lighter colored, pale against the darker wings.

Similar species; how eliminated:

The common has darker wingtips than wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA
If yes, explain:

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

Full sunlight. 20 feet above ground flying south to north, passed over 20 feet away (estimates) ~~7x~~ 50 binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Seen Forster's and Common at this sight before.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

none

How long before field notes made? none this form completed? 2 hr.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).