

Season: Summer Year: 1988

Other observers (name, city):

Name and address (print or type) Robert I. Cecil
327 S. 6th
Keokuk, Iowa 52632

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52240 by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Double-crested Cormorant	10	June 27	Miss. River at Montrose (Lee Co.) Peak count-- a few remained all summer but no sign of nesting.
Canvasback	4	Summered	2 males and 2 females remained at above location but no sign of nesting.
Redhead	3	Summered	With above, at above location. No sign of nesting.
Ring-necked Duck	3	Summered	With above, at above location. No sign of nesting.
Lesser Scaup	4	Summered	2 males, 2 females, with above at above location-- no sign of nesting.
White-winged Scoter	1	through June 5	Remained with birds above through late May--last seen on 5th near Keokuk. See details. Late??
Gray Partridge	15	July 23	Henry County is S.E. Iowa, about 9 miles north of Mt. Pleasant. This is farther south than I've ever seen them.
Purple Gallinule			**See Documentation**
American Coot	44	June 22	Peak, but fairly typical count at Miss. River at Montrose in Lee Co. No sign of nesting.
Ring-billed Gull	50	Summered	Summering birds along Miss. River in S. Lee County. No sign of nesting.
" " "	325	July 31	Miss. River, Keokuk, lee Co.
Least Tern	3	July 31	These birds were seen from Ill. on Pool 19. While they were probably in Ill. half of river, thought I would give you the option of including them. See documentation.
Carolina Wren	4	Summer	CUSF, with Mark Proescholdt and other observers.
" "	12	July 10	Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. with Francis Moore. Presumably some were immatures.
White-eyed Vireo	0		For the first time in 4 years, no White-eyed summered at Croton Unit. Shimek S.F. Several appeared in the spring, but did not remain.
Bell's Vireo	1	June 18	Singing male, Lee Co.
Blue-winged Warbler	pair	June 6	Pair with nest--3 eggs, with Mark Proescholdt, Croton Unit, Shimek (Lee Co.)
Northern Parula	3	Summer	Singing males. Numbers down this year at CUSF., Lee Co.
Cerulean Warbler	3	Summer	Singing males at CUSF. Numbers down
Worm-eating Warbler	2	July 17	Pair at Lacey-Keo. S.P. with Francis Moore

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Least Tern (Sterna antillarum) How many? 1 ad, 2 imm.

Location? Mississippi River Pool 19, Hancock Co., Ill.

Type of Habitat? Open river

When? date(s): July 31, 1988 time: 12:45 PM to 1:00 PM

Who? your name and address: Robert Cecil 327 Sth 6th, Keokuk, Iowa 52632

Others with you: one non-birder

Others before or after you: No

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.

Was scoping the river when I saw about 4 Forester's Terns (did not see these fly, but am assuming they were not Common Terns) sitting on posts sticking out of water. Above them was a much smaller tern which was similar in build, but about 2/3 the length. In contrast, the Forester's were much larger. The distance was substantial, but I was able to note yellow bill, and distinctive white patch above bill--the white forehead. Aside from black cap and nape, the rest of the bird appeared to be all white. Leg color not noted, nor was any darkness noted in the primaries of the sitting bird.

The immature birds appeared after I found the adult. They never landed, but I was able to observe the dark primaries, and head which lacked a dark cap. After approaching the adult, the adult also took flight, enabling me to observe that all three birds were the same size.

Also sent to Ill.

Similar species; how eliminated: According to the NGS Guide, Aleutian Tern has white forehead, but is larger than Least. I don't think these were Aleutian Terns.

As part of my identification was based upon size comparison with the presumed Foresters, it should be substantiated that they were not a larger Tern species, such as Caspian, which were also present on the river. The Forester's did not have the squared, almost crested head of a Caspian, nor did they have the heavy bill. Even at the distance I was viewing, these birds clearly did not have the size of a Caspian Tern.

Imm.s had dark primaries, which is not found on imm. Common or Forester's.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA

If yes, explain:

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

Viewing and lighting conditions good. Distance perhaps 300 or more yards. Scope: 20x Nikon.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen Least Terns several times, as well as Caspian and Forester's.

References and persons consulted before writing description: I looked through NGS Guide looking for similar species.

How long before field notes made? NONE this form completed? 6 hours.

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

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DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Least Tern (Sterna antillarum)
 Location? Mississippi River Pool 19, Hancock Co., Ill.
 Type of Habitat? Open river
 When date(s)? July 31, 1988
 What your name and address? Robert Cecil 327 5th St., Keosau, Iowa 52632
 Others with you? one non-birder
 Others before or after you? No

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

Was scoping the river when I saw about 4 Forester's Terns (did not see these fly, but am assuming they were not Common Terns) sitting on grass sticking out of water. Above them was a much smaller bird which was similar in bill, but about 1/2 the length. In contrast, the Forester's were much larger. The distance was substantial, but I was able to note yellow bill, and distinctive white patch above bill—the white forehead. Aside from black cap and wings, the rest of the bird appeared to be all white. Leg color not noted, nor was any darkness noted in the primaries of the sitting bird.

The immature birds appeared after I found the adults. They never landed, but I was able to observe the dark primaries, and head which lacked a dark cap. After approaching the adult, the adult also took flight, enabling me to observe that all three birds were the same size.

Jim:
 Please show to Steve. I also saw 1 or 2
 adults here last summer, about June 20.
 Could they be nesting on one of the
 many sandbars?

Similar species; how eliminate? According to the forehead, but is larger than least. I don't think this was a Common Tern, as the forehead was present.

As part of my identification was based on Caspian, which were also present on the river. The Forester's did not have the separated, almost crested head of a Caspian, nor did they have the heavy bill. Even at the distance I was viewing, these birds clearly did not have the size of a Caspian Tern.

Jim's had dark primaries, which is not found on least, Common or Forester's.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
 If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
 Viewing and lighting conditions good. Distance perhaps 300 or more yards. Scope: 20X.
 Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen least Terns several times, as well as Caspian and Forester's.

References and persons consulted before writing description: I looked through NOS Guide looking for similar species.

How long before field notes made? None this form completed? 5 hours.

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