

SUBMIT REPORT TO:

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Latilong _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 6-1997
Habitat Golf course pond Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name LEAST TERN
Scientific Name STERNA ANTILLARIUM
Obs. date MAY 25, 1997 Time(s) 3:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Duration of obs. approx. 25 min.
Distance from bird 100 yards - closest at 75 yards
Light conditions good
Optical equip. 8x40 binocs & spotting scope 25x
Photo equip. none
Notes made at time of sighting _____ Date report prepared June 16, 1997
Notes made later from memory

Weather at time of this observation.
CLEAR & windy
Prior weather and number of days since change
Windy
Locality
Southgate (Lava Hills) golf course
South end of St. George

Number of birds in each category.
Total number observed.
1

GENDER(S)
Males _____
Females _____
♀ or Imms _____
Unknowns

AGES(S)
Adults
Juv/Imms _____
2/3 yr birds _____
Unknowns _____

PLUMAGE(S)
Breeding Transition _____
Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____
Winter _____ Light ph. _____
Other _____

PHOTO(S)
Available _____
Enclosed _____

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

Robin sized, small tern.
white underparts
gray upper parts (back & wings)
Black cap & nape
white forehead with black covering the eye
white tail forked, but not as much as Forster's Tern
Yellow bill, black tipped.
Orangeish-yellow feet.
supposed to have rapid wing beats (according to field guides)
maybe it did, but what I saw could have been an
adaptation to very windy conditions existing at time of
observation.

I didn't go closer because of golfers on the course.
later Jim Matheson got to within 20 feet of bird, but
was chased off course by 2 women golfers who hollered
at him & told him to leave.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

None - all field marks were clearly observable

Variations from expected field marks.

None

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Forester's Tern - Larger; more deeply forked tail; no white forehead.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

First saw it perched on kind of a mud bar on east of pond. Wind was blowing so it seemed content to just sit. When it did fly it flew into the ~~wind~~ ^{wind} & foraged over the pond just to north of clubhouse & then ^{over} a pond on north side of Santa Clara Creek which borders area north of first pond. No interaction with any other birds.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Golf course pond. Santa Clara Creek just to north of pond. Pond surrounded by green golfing area.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

Didn't hear any.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

MERRILL WEBB
1063 EAST 400 NORTH
DREM, UT. 84097
(801) 224-6113

Signature Merrill Webb

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

2nd time with this bird. Many other experiences with Forster's & Caspian Terns.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

LYNNETTE WEBB

Print Name

Signature

Jim MATHESON

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature