

Non Stein  
Reserve, LA  
8-7-92

92-44

Dear Donna,

Sorry about the confusion regarding the Arctic Tern. It's not that I don't want it reviewed. Only that I'm not positive. Neither Melvin nor I have ever positively identified this species before. When we first made our identification, we both called Arctic Tern at the same time while reviewing a large mixed group of gulls & terns which included numerous Forster & Common Terns. Our initial observation was of a bird that was much grayer overall than the other birds. The white eye stripe contrasted noticeably with the dark cap. We both noted its short red legs, as compared with Common Terns next to it. Unfortunately its bill was mostly black with only a hint of reddish at the base. Although the group flushed several times due to the numerous beach goers, we were never able to view it in flight.

In fact there may have been 1 or 2 other immatures with the gray, birds with short legs. We passed the group hoping that others might be going down to Grand Isle and could identify these birds. But I believe most of the local birders went to Cameron to look for the "western type" gull reported there.

Feel free to circulate the form. Having it rejected won't hurt my feelings. Alerting others to possible Arctic Terns at Grand Isle in June is more important.

Regards,  
Ron Stein

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the LBRC Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or this format when submitting records for review (to assure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to: LBRC Secretary, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

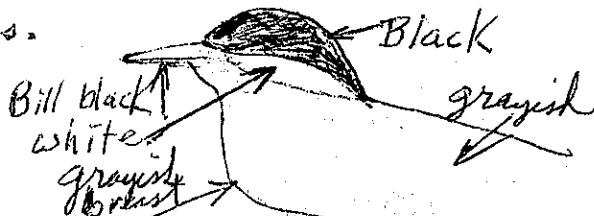
1. English and scientific name: *Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea)*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 sub-adult
3. Locality: Louisiana Jefferson  
state parish  
Bay Champagne at end of Fourchon Road west of Grand Isle  
specific locality
4. Date(s) when seen: June 6, 1992
5. Times of day when seen: Approx 9:30 - 10 AM
6. Reporting observer and address:  
Ronald Stein  
Box 943C, 409 N.W. 4th St.  
Reserve, LA 70084
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
Melvin Weber
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:  
None at time
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sunny, Good light mostly to our rear, birds in open.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 8x40 Bino & Bushy Lont Telescope 20 Power used
11. Distance to bird: 60' to 70'
12. Duration of observation: off and on for about 1/2 hour
13. Habitat: Beach
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification): Resting on beach with mixed flock of gulls & terns. Flock often chased by beach-goers moving back & forth along beach.

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen). Include if possible: total length or relative size compared to other species present or familiar species; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species:

approximate size of Common/Forster Terns. Bill black, short. Top of head & nape black, body overall grayish with noticeable white stripe on cheek contrasting with black cap & grayish underparts. Eye dark. Legs red, short. Tail equal to or slightly longer than wings at rest. At least 2 or 3 immatures may also have been Arctic Terns.

16. Voice:

None heard



17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Common Tern / Forster Tern does not have the contrasting white cheek stripe. Legs of both are longer. All three were favorably compared together.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained (By whom? Attached?):

None

19. Previous experience with this species:

None

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification:

- a) at time of observation: Birds of NA (Nat. Geog), and Soc Master Guide  
b) after observation: SAME AS ABOVE

21. This description written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during observation; \_\_\_\_\_ notes made after observation (date: \_\_\_\_\_); ☒ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? No. If not, explain:

Did not get a good look at bird in flight; "Black" bill still has me puzzled since other features indicate near adult plumage. No previous experience with this species. Hopefully someone else can confirm

23. Signature of reporter: Ronald J. Stein

24. Date and time of writing this account:

10:30 PM 6-6-92

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1. English and scientific name: Arctic Tern "Sterna paradisaea"
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 Adult in breeding plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA state Lafourche parish  
Edge of Bay Champsague east of Fouchon Road at Gulf. specific locality
4. Date(s) when seen: 6-6-92
5. Times of day when seen: 9:45 AM
6. Reporting observer and address: Melvin Weber P.O. Box 245  
 Reserve Louisiana 70084 (504) 536-2517
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
 Ronald Stein
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bird north of us, sun bright and high overhead
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x50 Binoculars - 30 power Kowa scope (new)
11. Distance to bird: 150 to 200 feet
12. Duration of observation: 2 minutes actually looking at bird, in scope
13. Habitat: Sandy beach at edge of calm bay water.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification): Bird was in company of Black, least, Common, Sandwich, and Forster's Terns, landed on beach. Direct comparison in size to Common & Forster's which were next to it.

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen). Include if possible: total length or relative size compared to other species present or familiar species; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species:

This bird stood out from the Common & Forster's with its gray underparts, black ~~cap~~ cap and white EAR PATCH between them. \* It's short legs were very noticeable AS it walked in front of a Forster's. It's bill color looked black with a little dark red at the base. It's bill was also noticeably shorter than Forster's. Legs were red like Forster's.

16. Voice: Tail at one point seemed longer than wings but none bird was never in a real good position for this.

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

The similar species would probably be Forster's And Common. Both were in field of view for direct comparison.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained (By whom? Attached?):

19. Previous experience with this species: None.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification:

- a) at time of observation: National Geographic Birds of North America  
Audubon Society Master Guide.

b) after observation:

21. This description written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during observation; ☒ notes made after observation (date: 6-6-92 ); \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter: Melvin Weber

24. Date and time of writing this account: 6-6-92 7PM

\* White ear patch seemed a little less so than "Nat. Geog. Birds"