

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <[zoiseaux@lusfiber.net](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 in juvenile plumage.
3. Parish: Caddo  
Specific Locality: Cross Lake from boat on open water.
4. Date(s) when observed: 05 Sep, 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: About 4:30 pm.
6. Reporting observer and address: John Dillon, 183 Dance Road, Athens, LA 71003
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Charlie Lyon, Jeff Trahan, Rosemary Seidler, Dot Rambin
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Mostly sunny on open water.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Alpen Rainier 8x42 binoculars in very good condition.

11. Distance to bird(s): Flew by within 40 feet of the boat.

12. Duration of observation: Less than 30 seconds.

13. Habitat: Open water.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flying by alongside boat from stern to bow only slightly above our heads. Flew far ahead and then landed in water. Associating with Forster's Terns.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): When the bird flew by, I think we all thought it was a Common Tern, but Charlie got several photos of it to document it. He sent me photos much later that night, saying that they clearly showed juv ARTE. Photos show a small tern, somewhat smaller than FOTE, with all black narrow, pretty short bill, black on upper half of head to crown, and all white below. Very white on upperside of secondaries with pale to medium gray primaries and primary coverts. Very narrow black edges at tips of last 5 or 6 primaries on upper and under sides. Can see secondary coverts in one wing in one photo, and they appear to be somewhat mottled with white edges. Tail deeply forked and all white. Photo of resting bird seems to show dark gray carpal bar but may at least partially be an artifact of light/shade.

16. Voice: Did not vocalize.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Adult Common Tern eliminated by having much more black on primary tips and uniformly gray secondaries, not white. Forster's present and eliminated by much longer bill, more black in primaries in juvenile and adult also shows more black in primary tips and white in bend of wing, not in secondaries. Adult Roseate Tern shows much more white on upperside of wing. Sandwich Tern unlikely inland but eliminated by bill color.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by Charlie Lyon.

19. Previous experience with this species: none

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: Sibley. Nat Geo.

21. This description is written from:

memory

study of images

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

23. Date: 26 Nov, 2017

Time: 1:10 pm.

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, but not the photo unless Charlie gives permission; I don't want to give the impression they belong to me.

If yes, may we include your name with the report? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_