

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-03-16 11:19:56
Observer's Name	Mark McConaughy
E-mail	TimeTraveler50@comcast.net
Phone	724-733-5299
Observer's Address	3787K Logans Ferry Road Pittsburgh 51 15239-3910 United States
Names of additional observers	Mark McConaughy
Species (Common Name)	Least Tern
Species (Scientific Name)	Sternula
Subspecies (if known)	antillarum
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Immature
Observation Date and Time	08-12-2001 12:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S53825395
County	Mercer
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Shenango Reservoir
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Golden Run Access
Habitat	Small sandbar in Shenango Reservoir
Distance to bird	A scope bird - maybe half a mile?
Viewing conditions	It was a sunny day with a lot of heat shimmer.
Optical equipment used	Leica Spotting scope with a 30x and adjustable 10-60x eyepiece lenses.

Description

This was a very small tern (other terns and gulls were present for comparison - see photos) with a relatively narrow black bill, a blackish eyeline extending toward the back of the head and a mostly whitish body.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Sitting and preening.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

It was much smaller than all the other terns and gulls that were present. The only tern that would have been that way is a Least Tern.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

The photos that are attached are not very good since they were an early attempt by me at digiscoping using a hand held camera over the eyepiece. However, they do show the small size of the bird, the whitish body and you can make out the black eyeline in the blown up shots. The bird is in the center of the more distant photo preening. The blown up shots have it to the right of the Canada Goose.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, it could not be any other type of tern. It was just too small.

During

Peterson's Birds of Eastern US

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[Least Tern 01.jpg](#)



[Least Tern 02m.jpg](#)



[Least Tern 03m.jpg](#)

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