



Addendum

Drew Mortensen <drewmortensen@gmail.com>

May 31 (3 days ago)

Jerry and Janet,

I hope that this email finds you well. I sent you a report of my Least Tern find this morning, and I would like to update it to mention that there was a Least Tern spotted less than three hours away this afternoon in the direction that I mentioned mine flying.

Here is the ABA Post:

<http://birding.aba.org/message.php?mesid=453359&MLID=OH&MLNM=Ohio>

Attached is a picture taken by Justin Bosler in Ohio. If there is anything else that I can do to make this official, please let me know!

Kind Regards,
Drew Mortensen

Drew Mortensen <drewmortensen@gmail.com>

May 31 (3 days ago)

Jerry and Janet,

This morning, while observing from the platform at Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park I saw what I believe was a Least Tern. I arrived on the platform around 6:15am and proceeded to scan the perimeter and interior ponds. The normal shorebirds were present and after unsuccessfully searching for the Piping Plover that had been found yesterday, I sat down and proceeded to observe movement between the lake and the interior ponds. After a few minutes of not seeing much, I put my bins down and just enjoyed the scenery and breeze. It was then that I noticed a small white bird flying across one of the ponds, moving towards the lake. Expecting it to be a shorebird, I put my binoculars up and was caught off guard by the tern like wings and bright yellow bill. I knew immediately that it wasn't any of the usual birds and was certain that it was a tern. As the bird was flying away from me I was barely able to pick up a dark cap or hood. The bird flew off over the lake a little way and then turned and flew along the beach heading west.

Having the details fresh in my mind, I grabbed my Sibley field guide from my bag and checked the terns. I had previously seen Common and Forster's at Gull Point, but was confident that these were not the bird I had observed. They were too big and had far too much orange/red in the bill where the bird I saw clearly was sporting a yellow bill. When I saw the illustration of the Least Tern, I immediately said "That is it!"

Typically I like to have photographic proof, but I was unable to get a picture as it moved off too quickly. I am confident that the bird I observed was a Least Tern.

Kind Regards,
Drew Mortensen

On Fri, May 31, 2013 at 8:23 AM, <jerrymcw@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Drew,

I have considered your sighting and checked my records. Your bird falls within the correct time period for Least Tern. The last Erie County record was on May 29, 1990 at Gull Point.

I can't think of anything else your bird could have been. If you feel comfortable with what you saw, I would count the bird.

This is considered a very rare stray to Pennsylvania and requires documentation to be accepted. If you would take the time to write up your sighting and submit it to me and to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) for review, it would make it official.

Send your written documentation to me and to Janet Getgood (secretary of the PORC) at jangetgood@gmail.com,

Thanks,

Jerry

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot – Round One

Species: Least Tern Sterna antillarum
Number of Individuals observed: 1
Date of Sighting: 5-31-2013
County : Erie
Location : Gull Point Presque Isle State Park
GPS Coordinates:
Observer(s): Drew Mortensen
Date of Submission: 6-3-2013
Submitted by: Drew Mortensen

Written Description: yes Photo: no Specimen: no Recording: no

Committee Member:

VOTE: (Check one)

Class I (P) (S) (R) (O)

Class II

Class III

Class IV-A

Class IV-B

Class IV-C

Class V

Comments:

Member Signature:

Date:

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Least Tern Sterna antillarum
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Written Description: yes Photo: no Specimen: no Recording: no

Votes / Comments:

Vote Totals:
Decision:

Signature (Secretary) Janet Getgood

Date: