

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-06-23 14:33:32
Observer's Name	Michael Hartshorne
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Phone	4845669548
Observer's Address	3408 Eaton Court Chester Springs PA 19425 United States
Names of additional observers	Larry Lewis, Ross Gallardy, Melissa Gallardy, Michael Defina, Jason Horn
Species (Common Name)	Least tern
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>
Number of individuals	2
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult, breeding plumage
Observation Date and Time	06-15-2019 12:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57398055
County	Chester
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Downingtown, Upper Uwchlan and Wallace Townships
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Marsh Creek State Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.067560, -75.719985
Habitat	Reservoir
Distance to bird	20 ft.
Viewing conditions	Partly cloudy with temperatures in low 70°F
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch 7 8x42
Description	Originally spotted by Larry Lewis. Small white tern, slightly larger than tree swallow with distinct yellow bill with black tip.

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

Originally single bird flying with rapid wing beats throughout reservoir with second bird located at approximately 12:49. Birds flying approximately 30' above water surface and then descending to surface. Single least tern fluttered and almost landed on buoys located approximately 20' offshore in front of me and then departed. Later, both terns landed on buoys and photos were obtained. At one point, one least tern was flying rapidly above water surface chased by tree swallow.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Yellow bill ruled out common and Forster's tern. Much smaller size and smaller yellow bill compared to large-billed tern.

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

Yes, due to previous experience viewing least tern on NJ beaches and identification of pertinent field marks

During

None

After

None

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[least tern.jpeg](#)

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