PA Rare Bird Report

Cubmission Data	0000 00 04 00 45 04
Submission Date	2020-09-01 09:45:01
Observer's Name	Meredith Lombard
E-mail	ctsnature@yahoo.com
Phone	7176843228
Observer's Address	255 N. 6th Street Columbia PA 17512 United States
Species (Common Name)	Least Tern
Species (Scientific Name)	Sterna antillarum
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	adult; breeding plumage
Observation Date and Time	06-15-2020 2:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S70476819
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Washington Boro
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Conejohela Flats, Avocet point
GPS coordinates of sighting	39°58'27.6"N 76°27'55.1"W
Habitat	river; shallow inlet around small islands
Distance to bird	about 1/3 mile
Viewing conditions	clear, light wind
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 7x40 binoculars; Swarovski ATS 80 w/ 20-60 zoom eyepiece
Description	Very small white tern with dark cap, stout yellow bill, short tail; dark wash to primaries. White forehead. Quick flap, tucked wings to dive

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

Foraging widely over shallow muddy inlet/slow flowing area around Avocet island, and over shallow areas along river near islands; Very quick wing beat. Chased briefly by a crow which appeared larger than the bird. Also challenged by a slightly smaller bird when it got too close to trees on the island. The passerine was nearly the same size as the tern.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Immediately recognized that it was smaller than any other tern that regularly forages in the area. The least tern foraged along shallow areas during observation time. Stout yellow bill and unusual quick flap flight style, short tail, dark cap with white forehead noted, differentiated it from other terns.

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

distant photos included; can see dark cap, white forehead and yellow bill in some of the photos; video shows quick flap, and some field marks

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

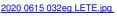
yes, familiar with species

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph Video

Upload images, audio, video or drawings









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