

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2020-09-01 09:45:01
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Meredith Lombard
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<b>Phone</b>	7176843228
<b>Observer's Address</b>	255 N. 6th Street Columbia PA 17512 United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Least Tern
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	adult; breeding plumage
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	06-15-2020 2:50 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S70476819">https://ebird.org/checklist/S70476819</a>
<b>County</b>	Lancaster
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Washington Boro
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Conejohela Flats, Avocet point
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	39°58'27.6"N 76°27'55.1"W
<b>Habitat</b>	river; shallow inlet around small islands
<b>Distance to bird</b>	about 1/3 mile
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	clear, light wind
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Swarovski 7x40 binoculars; Swarovski ATS 80 w/ 20-60 zoom eyepiece
<b>Description</b>	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**

[2020\\_0615\\_001\\_Least Tern video.wmv](#)



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