

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-06-10 11:52:47
Observer's Name	Brian Schmoke
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Phone	757-927-0501
Observer's Address	Street Address: 232 Yeager Hollow Road City: Julian State / Province: Pennsylvania Postal / Zip Code: 16844 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Arctic Tern
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult in Breeding Plumage
Observation Date and Time	06-10-2016 9:50 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S30150045
County	Centre
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Howard Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Lower Greens Run area of Joseph Foster Sayers Reservoir, Bald Eagle State Park.
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 41.011740 W 77.671332
Habitat	Lake
Distance to bird	primarily 300-900 feet but made several passes to within 50-75 feet of my location on the fishing pier
Viewing conditions	Partly Cloudy, Slight Wind (5-15mph), No Noticeable Heat Shimmer, Strongly backlit by bright white clouds at times
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch 10x42 Binocular, Vanguard Endeavor HD 82A 20-60x Spotting Scope, Nikon D5100 Camera with Nikon 300mm lens
Description	Medium-sized tern with black cap; Red bill; Forked tail white above and below with dark web to outermost tail feathers; White body and wings below with thin black trailing edge of outer primary feathers; Pale gray wings and body above with thin black trailing edge of outer primary feathers.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Actively foraging for the duration of my observation. Plunged several times for prey.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

overall size, black cap, lack of crest, and red bill allowed elimination of all species except COTE and ARTE. COTE ruled out by lack of black in bill tip, bill smaller and thinner, lack of dark color in outer primary feathers (except for trailing edge). This bird also shows has relative short-necked/small headed appearance compared to COTE.

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

While ARTE is a new species to me I was able to see enough id features in the field and later in the photos for a positive identification.

During

iBird Pro app, Cornell's All About Bird website

After

The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America; The Crossley ID Guide

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph



[CSC_4165.JPG](#)



[CSC_4171.JPG](#)



[CSC_4182.JPG](#)



[CSC_4184.JPG](#)



[CSC_4187.JPG](#)