

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-06-21 13:54:13
Observer's Name	Kevin Dougherty
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Observer's Address	115 South West Street Allentown PA 18102 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 Alternate plumage
Observation Date and Time	05-20-2018 1:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S45879995
County	Lehigh
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Lynn
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Leaser Lake
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.668990, -75.836770
Habitat	120 acre recreational lake surrounded by residential, agricultural, forested, and open undeveloped land uses
Distance to bird	15-30 feet
Viewing conditions	mostly cloudy with occasional light rain, 71 F, winds WNW 0-2 kn.
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch 5 10x42 binoculars, Canon EOS 5T with 70-300mm EF IS L lense

Description	Medium sized (30-35cm) tern. head rounded with black cap extending down to slightly below the eye, almost to the gape, cap continuing to the rear to encompass the nape; neck short; cheeks and upper throat white with narrow extension to gape, upper flanks, belly, breast and lower throat pale gray transitioning smoothly into the cheeks and upper throat; bill relatively short, 2/3 to 3/4 the length of the head, dark orange-red to red with a slight dusky area distally on the upper mandible, upper mandible slightly downward curved in the distal 1/4, lower mandible nearly straight; upper coverlets and mantle slightly darker gray than underparts, rump white; tail white with thin black edge on outer rectrices, tail appears slightly shorter than or just equaling the tip of the wings at rest; upper surface of primaries medium gray with darkening along the inner webs but little color difference between P4-6 and P7-10; legs short with tibiotarsal-tarsal joint just visible, color similar to that of the bill. Description based on review of 25 photographs .
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was perched on the handrail of a floating dock and kayak launch and showed little inclination to move; either very tired or very tolerant of people even when kayaks were being launched with 15 feet.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Smaller size, shorter bill, shorter legs and more extensive cap than Forster's Tern ; Short legs, extension of black cap towards gape, short legs, shorter bill with little evidence of development of black tip, similar coloration of primaries from Common Tern, molt in primaries of Common should result in inner primaries, at least to P6 being fresher and thus lighter than the outer, more worn primaries. Bird has been discussed with several other more experienced observers.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	Additional photographs are available in both JPEG and Canon CR2 raw format if requested;
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Still troubled by tail length which appears short although the measurement falls within the ranges seen in the literature
During	None
After	Sibley and Stokes Guides, Coues (1903), Craik (1998), Vande Weghe (1966), numerous internet sources for photographs and descriptions
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[IMG_6370.JPG](#)



[IMG_6377.JPG](#)



[IMG_6380.JPG](#)



[IMG_6381.JPG](#)



[IMG_6388.JPG](#)



[IMG_6394.JPG](#)



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