



LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

BIRD STUDIES CANADA

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RARITY REPORT

In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be accepted for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO co-operators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the LPBO staff. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature. PLEASE PRINT.

Species claimed: Arctic Tern

No. of birds: 1 **Age:** juvenile **Sex:** unknown.

Date(s): October 3, 2010.

Place: Hamilton - Vanwagner's Beach - Hutches

Time(s) of Observation: ~0930

Who first saw the bird(s): Stu Mackenzie and Brandon Holden

Who first identified it: Stu Mackenzie and Brandon Holden

Other observers (names and addresses):

Brandon Holden – peregrine13@gmail.com

John Brett and Marianne White – john.brett@ec.gc.ca, marianne.white@ontario.ca

Any who disagree: No

Your previous experience with the species: I have observed the species regularly off both coasts in all plumages and a couple of times in Ontario (mostly in breeding plumage).

Your previous experience with any closely similar species:

(a) Formerly: Experience identifying and observing many species of the genera from the western hemisphere.

(b) Same day: n/a

Species present for comparison: Ring-billed, Herring, Great Black-backed Gull, Parasitic Jaeger

Which were beside it for comparison: none

Distance from observer(s): 1000 to 100 m

How measured: estimate

Optical aids used: 8.5 X 42 Swarovski EL.and TSN-822 Kowa Telescope

Weather conditions (at time of observation)

Visibility: fair considering wind and rain

Cloud Cover: 10/10

Lighting: good

Wind direction and speed: strong NE – 5 gusting 6 beaufort

Other relevant conditions:

(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.) Intermittent rain

For "Waterbird " records only

Lake conditions: waves

Wave height: ~2m

Height of observer above lake: ~5m

Was observer's position sheltered: Yes

Weather system preceding the date of observation (if known): unknown

Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.

Associated movements of other species:

Was the bird trapped: no

Band # if banded: no

Was it photographed: no

If yes, by whom (name and address):

Specimen or parts preserved: no

Present location:

Circumstances:

The four of us were standing underneath the east shelter at Hutches restaurant. BH and I walked out to the beach to scan the lake and noticed a small tern about 1 km to the east working its way toward the restaurant. It stayed within about 50-300 m away from the shoreline for most of our observation preferring the more turbulent waters and deep swells when feeding. We lost it in the waves to the north-west a minute or two later.

Description:

Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions.

Head: - small stout bill, greyish white forehead blending into a dark cap and head. White neck.

Body: A smallish, stout, pot-bellied, *Sterna*. mottled grey back and scapulars. White belly and under tail coverts.

Wings: Wing coverts dark grey lightly mottled with black. Very faint carpal bar on the leading edge of the wing fading away into the primary coverts. Secondaries and inner primaries formed a thin white chevron in the middle of the wing which faded into a greyish trailing edge. The outer leading and trailing edge of primaries were black and formed a striking distal border to the upper and lower wing. Underwings and body white.

Tail: Tail was long, white and forked with black edging to the outer retrices.

Separated from Common tern by whitish upper wings, strong black edging to the leading and trailing edge of the outer primaries, and a faint carpal bar. Overall grey and white clean appearance. Bird appeared to be stockier and shorter-billed than Common.

Separated from Forster's tern by strong black edging to the leading and trailing edge of the outer primaries – especially on the upper wing. Bird appeared to be stockier, shorter-billed, shorter winged, and tailed than Forster's. Black head not a face mask.

Did you refer to any guides/other literature: no

(a) at the time: no

(b) afterwards: no

Finally, is this record 100% certain? yes

Signed:



E-mail Address: stu.a.mackenzie@gmail.com

Date:

Jan 31, 2011

Mailing Address:

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