

Long Point Bird Observatory/ Bird Studies Canada

P.O. BOX 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada N0E 1M0 Tel: (519) 586-3531 x162 E-mail:
lpbo@birdscanada.org - www.birdscanada.org/longpoint



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 cooperators 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 Landbird Programs Coordinator and in *A Birding Guide to Long Point Area*. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature. PLEASE PRINT.

Species claimed: LEAST TERN

No. of birds: 1

Age: adult

Sex: ♂

Date(s): 14/05/2013

bleeding plumage

Place: Long Point Provincial «new» Park (dunes and west side beach)

Time(s) of Observation: 4h45 p.m.

Who first saw the bird(s): DON-JEAN LÉANDRI-BRETON

Who first identified it: Don-Jean Léandri-Breton dj.leandri.breton@gmail.com

Other observers (names and addresses):

No. Fanny Senez-Gagnon was with me but too far to see the bird

Any who disagree: ♂

Your previous experience with the species:

Seen many times along the East Coast and Florida.

Your previous experience with any closely similar species:

Excellent experience with all North American Terns, especially with Common Tern in all plumages.

(a) Formerly:

(b) Same day:

1 adult Common Tern

Species present for comparison: No

Which were beside it for comparison: No

Distance from observer(s): min. = 15 meters
max = 35 meters when a lost the bird.

How measured:

Optical aids used: binoculars

Weather conditions (at time of observation)

For "Waterbird " records only

Visibility: good

Lake conditions:

Cloud Cover: very cloudy (white to pale gray sky)
Colors were difficult to distinguish but black and white appear clearly.

Lighting: average

Wave height:

Wind direction and speed: S-W

Height of observer above lake:

Other relevant conditions:
(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.) no rain at that time

Was observer's position sheltered:

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

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:

In Long Point Provincial (new) Park.

The bird was flying west over the land toward the beach, then turn north and probably follow the beach, but it dissappear on the other side of the dunes. When I got to the beach where the bird has disappeared, I couldn't find it again. The bird has only been seen in flight from beneath, from beside and from the back. Total observation time was about 10 seconds.

Description:

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

The tiny size and the very slim shape were the first criteria noticed. (about the size of Solitary Sandpiper but thinner and longer wings). The bird has a light and more bouncy (elastic) flight than Sterna terns. The wing beats were deep with a long and slim wings look (short secondaries and long primaries). The tail was completely white, short and deeply notched (V shape) but without the long outer tail feathers of adults Sterna terns. From above (when the wings got down) the last primaries (P10 and P9) were distinctly black with a clear contrast with the inner primaries. The bird was flying straight but turning his head from left to right. When turning his head toward the observer, the forehead was clearly white contrasting with the black cap. The terminal edge of the primaries was clear white (no dark wedge of the primaries). The bill appears to be pale, certainly not black, but the exact color was difficult to see because of the cloudy sky. With this light, a red bill would have probably appeared darker. The black line through the eyes couldn't be seen with certitude.

Did you refer to any guides/other literature:

(a) at the time:

(b) afterwards:

Finally, is this record 100% certain?

Yes

Signed:

Date:

15/05/2013

E-mail Address:

dj-leandri@hotmail.com

Mailing Address:

892 Richelieu St. App 7
Quebec City, Quebec
G1R 1K9