



IOS IORC &lt;iorcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

## IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

**IORC Web Submission** <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 21, 2023 at 12:55 AM

Reply-To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Unusual species
If other, please describe:	
2) Species:	Arctic Tern
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	Adult/Nonbreeding
5) Date:	2013-10-08
6) Location (include county):	White Oak Park, Bloomington, McLean County
7) Observers:	Matthew Winks, Shanin Abreu, Les Allen, Benjamin Murphy
8) Your name:	Benjamin Murphy
Street Address	██████████
Street Address Line 2	
City	██████
State / Province / Region	█
Postal / Zip Code	██████
Country	██████████
10) Your e-mail address:	████████████████████
11) Others agreeing with the identification:	Matthew Winks, Shanin Abreu, Les Allen
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	
13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet) include only details actually seen in the field :	My notes were on the Illinois Birder's Forum, which no longer exists. I remember clearly seeing the light, gray, or very faint or pale carpal bar while observing the bird through the scope in flight. I also recall discussing the differentiating field marks with Les and Matthew while observing the bird and viewing the sibley app on Matthew's phone. I observed with scope and binoculars. Also, the markings on the head which I observed indicated Common or Arctic. Matthew's description from ebird: "I initially spotted this tern in the morning and then saw it briefly around noon. I observed it in flight at modest to close range for 30 minutes in the evening. Arctic Tern was determined and Common Tern eliminated based on a few factors. The carpal bar was thinner and less prominent than expected for Common Tern. The black trailing edge of the primaries was thinner and extends further down the wing than on Common which would be broader and shorter. The primaries were light gray while the secondaries were very pale and appeared virtually white in flight. Common Tern should have dark secondaries. When at rest the primaries appeared only a shade or two

	darker than the scapulars, tertials, and mantle. The head was nicely rounded and the bill relatively small. The cap appeared almost solid black and extended far down the nape. Together all these features support Arctic while eliminating Common as well as Roseate and Forster's." Les Allen's description from ebird: "Medium-size tern with small head, short black bill, and long tail. Uniformly gray wings on top, primaries slightly black on wing tips, wings were white underneath. Black cap and nape"
14) Description of behavior:	Bird observed flying. Was observed roosting on the shore earlier in the day.
15) Description of vocalizations:	None
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	White Oak Lake is a small urban lake surrounded by a walking trail in a park with a few scattered trees. The lake itself has a bit of dirt shore in places as well as phragmites surrounding it. A creek runs alongside the park, and there is a large gravel pit filled with water nearby creating a larger lake.
17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	Probaby 20x60x80 scope and Monarch bins
18) Distance/how measured?	Matthew's notes say moderate to close. Viewed well with binoculars and scope
19) Time of observation:	05:25 pm
20) Total time of observation:	45 minutes. Viewed longer by Matthew
21) Weather conditions:	Clear
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	None
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	Common Tern has different darker edge on upper wing and dark thick wedge on underwing. Roseate Tern has white on wings and no wedge or trailing edge. Based on photos and description above, the arctic tern had a uniformly gray wing with dark primary tips above and very thin black on edges of underwing. This bird had round head and small bill which also eliminates Forster's, Roseate, and Arctic. The head pattern and wing pattern eliminates Forster's as well.
24) Were photos obtained?	Yes
25) If so, by whom?	Shanin Abreu
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?:	The Sibley app was used both at the time of viewing the tern as well as when this report was made. I only wrote what I specifically remembered observing in my description. I wrote it recently because my initial notes on Illinois Birder's Forum were lost. Looking at the app or Shanin's photos may have jogged my memory. I took Matthew's and Les's descriptions straight from ebird. Their descriptions were written close to the time of the observation.
27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded?	See above.
28) How long after the observation was this form completed?	10 years
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	Shanin's photos can be viewed on Matthew's ebird report. They are watermarked, but okay for identification. <a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S15378723">https://ebird.org/checklist/S15378723</a>