

In summary, we consider that field notes giving accounts of rarities (either in time of year or in locality) should only be accepted for publication in this journal if they contain a detailed description of the bird written in the field which confirms the identity beyond reasonable doubt. Readers interested in more detailed information are referred to articles by the late Clark S. Beardslee (The verifying account in ornithology, *Kingbird* 7:109, 1958) and the late Josselyn Van Tyne (What constitute scientific data for the study of bird distribution?, *Audubon Field Notes* 19:390, 1965) in addition to the article by Axtell mentioned above. For those who believe that the specimen is the only reliable record the account of the Hastings rarities (Nicholson and Ferguson-Lees, *British Birds* 55:299, 1962) is a 'must'.

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## FIELD NOTES

**Least Tern at Montezuma NWR, Seneca Co.:** On July 3, 1965 while watching for marsh birds from the dike of the May's Point Pool at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, the writer along with Mrs. Ruth Williams, Mr. Walter E. Benning, and Mr. Jon R. Bart observed an adult Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). The bird initially was flying over about 20-30' above the open strip of water adjacent to the dike, and made several short, steep plunges into the water, passed directly in front of the observers at a distance of 30-40' and worked gradually up the waterway, and in five minutes passed out of sight westward over the marsh area. Observers were using 7X to 10X binoculars and one observer (JRB) was able to follow the bird closely with a B&L Zoom Scope mounted on a gunstock. Time 1800 EDST; light excellent. Details of the observation taken at the time are as follows:

Small white tern, markedly smaller than the local Black Terns, with very fast, fairly deep wingstroke, rapidity of wingstroke increased when hovering just prior to plunging into the water; body totally white as was moderately forked, rather short tail; upper back and wing surface very pale pearl gray with dark gray along outer primaries from wrist to tip; crown and line from eye to bill black but forehead white, in a pattern like a boomerang with thickest portion near bill-base; a few white feathers in anterior portion of black crown; thin, sharply pointed bill yellow with black tip; leg color not seen (bird never alighted); single "zeet" notes heard several times, but whether from Least Tern or adjacent food-begging young Black Terns not determinable.

The day of the observation a strong SW wind was blowing and had been so for the day prior. In view of this direction of origin of the wind and the inland location, the bird was probably from the Mississippi Valley population, but definition of this point demands collecting. Both the writer and Mrs. Williams are familiar with the species from observations on the Maryland-Virginia coast.

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**Winter Wren Nest in Delaware County, 1964:** Nests of the Winter Wren are notoriously difficult to find and there are few records of them in New York State outside the Adirondacks and higher elevations of the Catskills. Therefore, the