

## LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Artic Tern; *Sterna paradisaea*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
One (1) individual; sex unknown; age - adult; adult breeding plumage (other than very small white flecks on crown)
3. Parish:  
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:  
Rutherford Beach
5. Date(s) when observed: June 14, 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:40 p.m.
7. Reporting observer: Claire Hanson and Tom Hanson
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Devon Bosler and John O'Brien
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
Justin Bosler; Charlotte Chehotsky; Beth Kramer
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
Bright sunshine - photos of bird as it faced West
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Scope: Zeiss Conquest Gavia 85;  
Digiscope photos taken with iPhone 15; Camera: Nikon D3500 with AF-P Nikkor 70-300 mm 1:4.5-6.3 G
12. Distance to bird(s): approximately 30 - 35 yds.
13. Duration of observation: 45 minutes
14. Habitat: Beach - with pools
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird

was resting with approximately 30 or so other birds (mostly Laughing Gulls), occasionally stretching neck and wings, opening its bill several times; a helicopter flew overhead and the tern turned its head to see that, but didn't fly; 4-wheelers and beachcombers passed nearby, with loud music but didn't disturb the tern - eventually there were only about 5 or so birds left in the group and they flew as we were leaving -

16. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):

small tern - very much like a Common Tern, approx. 12" in length - Similar in size to nearby Forster's Tern but just a bit smaller; long wings, with a tail that appeared to be just about equal in length to the wings; pale, light, smudgy gray underneath, pale gray body and wings, white neck and upper breast area; rounded head with black cap and a spattering of white flecks mostly seen on one side of the black cap; wings had a narrow dark trailing edge as seen when the tern stretched; small dark red bill that was darker at the base; the most distinguishing feature was the extremely short, red legs -

17. Voice: No vocalization

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):  
Similar to a Common Tern - but rounder head and really short legs

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):  
Photographs by Claire & Tom Hanson - attached (We do have some digiscope videos, if needed)

20. Previous experience with this species: No previous experience

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern NA; allaboutbirds.org; John O'Brien (other birder on location when we arrived)

22. Identification aids used when?  
At time of sighting

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:  
Yes

24. Date report completed:

June 17 2024

25. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes

















