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Evidence for Reproductive Mixing of Least Tern Populations.—The Atlantic race of the Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum antillarum*) breeds along the coastal beaches and bay systems of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico from Maine to southern Texas, while the Interior Least Tern (*S. a. athalassos*) breeds in the interior of the United States along the Mississippi River, its major tributary drainages, and portions of the Pecos and Rio Grande rivers (American Ornithologists' Union 1957). Although various physical distinctions between these populations were suggested by Burleigh and Lowery (1942), none of these distinctions has been statistically verified, and separation of the races remains largely based on geographic separation of breeding areas.

On 15 July 1984, RLB captured an adult Least Tern while it was incubating at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Stafford Co., Kansas. The tern had been banded by BCT on 27 June 1980 as a juvenile (#801-53109) on a coastal oyster shell island near Port Lavaca, Calhoun Co., Texas, approximately 1250 km S of QNWR. The mate to this tern was also captured on 15 July 1984 and had been banded (#1181-01019) at QNWR as an adult by RLB on 21 June 1980. Both terns were examined and released on the day of capture. Although no criteria have been established for sexing Least Terns, we believe that behavioral observations of the pair, as well as measurements of both birds, suggested the Texas bird was a female (Table 1). The nest that this pair was attending contained two eggs on 12 July. On 10 August 1984, a juvenile about 15–18 days old was found within 10 m of the nest site and was banded. This juvenile was likely produced by the banded pair as the nearest neighboring nest was 200 m south.

These observations demonstrate that genetic mixing is occurring naturally between members of these adjacent populations. The magnitude of such mixing cannot be estimated from this single event, but the low probability of a band recovery/return for this species (ca. 0.5%) suggests that it could be a reasonably prevalent phenomenon.

The migratory pathways and winter distribution of these populations are unknown and this observation suggests at least minimal contact during some period outside the breeding season. The belief that the Texas tern was a female is consistent with findings in many other species (Boyd 1962, Greenwood 1980, Lenington and Mace 1975, Wilcox 1959) in that the female has a greater tendency to disperse from the natal area. Massey (1974) and Wolk (1974) have suggested that the elaborate courtship behavior and vocalizations of the Least Tern are associated with the vicinity of the breeding areas and would not suggest pairing on the wintering grounds or during migration.

Site tenacity of the Least Tern is only 50–55% at QNWR (Boyd, unpubl. data), whereas populations on the west coast experience 90–95% site tenacity (Atwood, pers. comm.). Both Atwood, with Least Terns, and Austin (1951) with Common Terns, suggest that the birds tend to disperse more from less stable nesting sites. Nesting habitat of the Least Tern is subject to substantial disturbances in both Kansas and Texas.

TABLE 1. Criteria used for tentative identification of the sexes of the banded Least Tern pair captured in Kansas.

Characteristics	Kansas bird "male"	Texas bird "female"
Behavioral	Fed fish to incubating bird	Received fish, more attentive to nest
Wing chord	173 mm	168 mm
Tail length	81 mm	75 mm
Bill depth at widest point	6.0 mm	5.5 mm
Bill color	Bright orange	Yellow
Foot and web color	Bright orange	Orange with gray on web and toe joints

These points are all of significance to the recent federal approval of endangered classification for the Interior Least Tern (Fed. Reg. Vol. 50 FR 21784). Greater understanding of use areas and pairing common to the two populations is critical to evaluating the effect of reproductive interchange on future efforts directed at recovery of the interior population. Interior populations are declining as a result of substantial habitat modification that is expected to continue.

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Addendum: RLB recaptured the Texas bird 10 July 1985 on a nest 1 km NW of the 1984 nest. Its mate was not captured and the nest was destroyed by predators.

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Fidelity of an American Tree Sparrow to a Wintering Area.—On 15 November 1976 I caught an unknown age, unknown sex American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) in a Potter trap at my banding station in Alfred Station, New York (coordinates 421-0774) and banded it (#1370-59030). Thus began a remarkable sequence of 41 captures over a