

southwestern Oklahoma (Van Velzen, 1968, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 1: 26).
 —Wesley S. Isaacs, 1304 Lafayette Dr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73119, 15
 March 1980.

FROM THE EDITOR: Over much of its range, populations of the Interior Least
 Tern (*Sterna albifrons athalassos*) appear to be declining. In an attempt to
 ascertain the status of nesting populations, Robert L. Downing of the U.S. Fish
 and Wildlife Service surveyed by car and air the major river systems of the
 United States interior during the summers of 1974 and 1975. On the twelve
 major watersheds, 616 terns were actually sighted, from which Downing esti-
 mated a total nesting population of 1,250 birds. In Oklahoma, the following
 numbers were observed (estimates in parentheses): Red River 15 (25), Cana-
 dian River 2 (25), Cimarron River 40 (100), and Arkansas River, including the
 Quivara National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas and the Salt Plains National
 Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma 32 (50). Thus, about 15% of all nesting Interior
 Least Tern populations that were located were in Oklahoma. But the many
 ponds and lakes constructed on these watersheds during the last half century
 have reduced the frequency and severity of flooding that formerly provided the
 bare mid-stream sandbars that are so critical as nesting habitat. Populations
 may be completely lost if flood and chloride control projects are completed on
 the Edith Salt Plains and the Great Salt Plains. The species may have to be
 listed as endangered before the mistake of destroying nesting habitat through
 dredging is fully appreciated by the managing agencies (see Downing, R. L.,
 1980, Amer. Birds, 34: 209-211).—Jack D. Tyler.

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