

Note on the mating behavior of the Least Tern, *Sterna albifrons*.—On 3 May 1966 at about 1645 hours on Siesta Key, Sarasota, Florida, I noted a Least Tern, *Sterna albifrons*, on the beach several yards from the water. The lone bird stood preening itself for several minutes before another Least Tern alighted on the beach about a foot away with a fish about 5 cm in length carried crosswise in its bill. The new arrival, a male, although its sex was not apparent until a moment later, approached the first bird, the female, from behind. The female then squatted on her belly in the sand. The male tern stood behind and slightly over the female, moving his head and consequently the fish, back and forth, in a rather slow methodic manner. This movement continued for about a minute, whereupon the male quickly mounted the female, remaining for only a second. Without giving the fish to the female the male then flew away, and the female followed an instant later, both perhaps frightened by people walking along the shore.

Within a few minutes I saw another, or possibly the same, pair. The female remained on the beach while the male flew off to go fishing. After several graceful swoops and plunges into the shallow water, he caught a fish, returned, and lit beside the waiting female, usually remaining only long enough to put the fish into her mouth before flying off again. My notes made at the time fail to mention any calls or signals of recognition made by the pair when the male was only a short distance away. But when the male flew a longer distance in search of fish, or the female changed location, seemingly because of human intruders as happened three or four times during the hour I watched them, the male called a continual high shrill *cher-eeep*, *cher-eeep*, *cher-eeep* as he returned along the shore. When he was almost overhead, the female answered with a single *cher-eeep*, somewhat lower in pitch than that of the male. The male then descended and fed the female. Throughout this time the male was constantly either in search of food or feeding the female.

The mating behavior of this pair differs in its comparative simplicity from that reported by Hardy (The Least Tern in the Mississippi Valley, Publ. Mus., Michigan State Univ., Biol. Ser., vol. 1, no. 1, 1957: 1-60) who describes the phases of courtship display in approximate order as aerial glide, posturing, parading, copulation, and incipient nest building. He also cites instances in which variations, including the omission and/or combination of one or more of these phases occur. For example, during the posturing and parading phases observed by Hardy (op. cit.) the female may be presented with a fish; immediately prior to copulation, side to side head movements are made by both birds; and during copulation, both birds call and then interlock their bills. In the pair I watched the posturing and parading were omitted, side to side head movements were made by the male only, with fish, and there was no calling or interlocking of bills.—KATHERINE VON SCHMIDT, *Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Florida 33581*.

What is *Pionus reichenowi* (Heine)?—In 1884 Heine (J. f. Orn., 32: 264) described as *Pionias Reichenowi* a parrot that he thought came from “northern Brazil or Peru.” Peters (Check-list of birds of the world, vol. 3, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard Univ. Press, 1937: 214) lists this name as a synonym of *Pionus menstruus*, the well-known and widespread Blue-headed Parrot, considering it a color variant thereof. Peters apparently based his decision on a communication from E. Stresemann, who examined one of Heine’s specimens. In a footnote Peters quotes Stresemann as follows: “The two types of *Pionias reichenowi* Heine are in the Museum Heineanum at Halberstadt, but according to the original description one of them equals a speci-