

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-04-29 14:18:12
Observer's Name	Al Guarente
E-mail	owlguarente@yahoo.com
Phone	6105668266
Observer's Address	421 South Old Middletown Road Media PA 19063-4832 United States
Names of additional observers	none
Species (Common Name)	American Oystercatcher
Species (Scientific Name)	Haematopus palliatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult - sex unknown
Observation Date and Time	04-15-2018 8:40 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44589281
County	Delaware
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Delaware River at UPS building behind Philadelphia Airport
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	See Above
Habitat	River
Distance to bird	1/4 mile
Viewing conditions	cloudy but good lighting
Optical equipment used	Leica Scope 20x60 zoom
Description	Large shorebird with fairly long pinkish legs. Head with totally black hood and large, thick, red bill. Eye color not noted due to distance. The body was brown above and pure white below. In flight, the bird displayed large white area on secondaries and on upper tail coverts.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

At the river, there is a mudflat present during low tide and while I was scanning the gulls I saw a peep walking along the mudflats but being so far away I was unable to identify the bird. Suddenly all the gulls took off and while looking quickly through them I spotted a bird with a different shape and quicker wingbeats than the gulls. I immediately could see it was an American Oystercatcher. The bird started to fly upriver towards Phila and I lost track of it. The flight was strong and wingbeats were quick. About 5 minutes later I scanned the mudflats again and the Oystercatcher had returned to roost. Definitely too far for a photo but easily recognizable as an Oystercatcher. Then a Bald Eagle flew in and flushed all the birds. At this point, the bird was lost and the mudflats were just about gone due to the incoming tide. This is only the second time that I have seen an Oystercatcher in PA and both times it was in Delaware County.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Brown color on back ruled out European Oystercatcher

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes. Very distinctive bird and seen many times along shorelines of NJ and Delaware

During

none

After

none

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