

ROYAL TERN

Date: 8/28/2011

Location: Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., PA

Observer: George Armistead

optics used: 10 x 42 Leica binoculars, 25-55x Leica telescope.

1 nonbreeding adult. Seen 1mile+, spotted a large tern through binoculars that I was reasonably sure was a Royal, and then I confirmed the identity using my scope. I watched it for about a minute as it flew high (~300 ft high) and to the west before it disappeared behind the base of the Ben Franklin Bridge. It appeared as though it was headed out over the city (!). Even at that distance, the orange-yellow bill was visible as was the moderately gray back and the heavy *Thalasseus* structure, and the moderately blackish primaries.