

<b>Submission Date</b>	2012-11-27 13:32:39
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Cameron Rutt
<b>E-mail</b>	cameronrutt@gmail.com
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld, Frank Windfelder, George Armistead, Todd Fellenbaum, Martin Dellwo
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Royal Tern
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Thalasseus maximus
<b>Number of individuals</b>	5
<b>Have you submitted this to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Adults and immatures (I'm not sure what the exact breakdown was). The bird that was best photographed appears to be a second-cycle individual, with retained juvenile secondaries and rectrices (but lacking the dark bars on the upperwing coverts of a hatch-year)
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	10-30-2012 8:46 AM
<b>County</b>	Philadelphia
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Philadelphia
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Pennypack on the Delaware
<b>Habitat</b>	All five Royal Terns were seen flying over the Delaware River
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Cold, overcast, and with a light drizzle, but surprisingly good viewing conditions considering that this was less than a day after Superstorm Sandy had made landfall
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Swarovski EL 8.5x42 binoculars, Swarovski ST-80 scope, and a Canon 60D with a 400mm f/5.6L
<b>Description</b>	Large larids with pointy wings and pale plumage overall, whiter below with light gray upperparts. The birds had large orange bills, wings with extensive black only on the upperside of the primaries, and white foreheads with the black cap restricted to the rear portion of the head.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as</b>	Four birds were northbound (two pairs, earlier in the AM)

**possible about what the bird was doing)**

and one (photographed; second-cycle) southbound, which we assumed to represent five different individuals.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

Separation from Caspian Tern, the expected large tern with a big, colorful bill, was pretty straightforward: reduced black in the cap, extensive black of the wings not on the underside of the primaries, and orange bills.

**Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/chrysoptera/8152633837>  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bonxie88/8140308291>

Both photos are of the same individual.

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

Yes

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph

**Click to edit**

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