

Submission Date	2012-10-30 21:14:50
Observer's Name	Chris Blazo
E-mail	cblazo@localnet.com
Observer's Address	City: St. Thomas State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17202 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Bill Oyler, Laurie ?
Species (Common Name)	Black Skimmer
Species (Scientific Name)	Rynchops niger
Subspecies (if known)	niger
Number of individuals	4
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	They were all juveniles.
Observation Date and Time	10-30-2012 5:00 PM
County	Franklin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Hamilton Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Back Creek off of Edgewater Dr.
Habitat	A very large flooded pasture with a mature Oak grove to the southern border along Back Creek.
Distance to bird	250'
Viewing conditions	Overcast. Drizzle. Breezy.
Optical equipment used	Nikon 8x42
Description	They were juveniles. They were more towards the adult black plumage, not the brown juvenile plumage. There was some scaling on the wings with whitish feather fringes. The diagnostic bill with the lower mandible and orange base was obvious. It's dark cap continued down nape to mantle, unlike adult. While standing, it was very horizontal.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	These four birds did not do much. They stood horizontal and sometimes tucked their bill into their back. They never took flight or walked.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

The bill was the factor.

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

There were so many rare birds I saw today. I was on cloud 9. Hurricane Sandy gave me some of my best birding in over 25 years.

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

I am positive. I know these birds from watching them in North Carolina. Plus they are unmistakable for an experienced birder.

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