

Submission Date	2013-03-09 23:02:46
Observer's Name	Bill Etter
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Phone	2159643613
Observer's Address	Street Address: 407 S Cigar Rd City: Northampton State / Province: United States Postal / Zip Code: 18067 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Bill Etter
Species (Common Name)	American Oystercatcher
Species (Scientific Name)	Haematopus palliatus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	10-30-2012 11:15 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/view/checklist?subID=S11904984
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Haycock Twp
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Lake Nockamixon / Nockamixon State Park
Habitat	Large rural lake
Distance to bird	less than 100 yards
Viewing conditions	clear
Optical equipment used	8x Celestron binoculars, good Nikon 24-30x scope, Coolpix camera
Description	Unmistakable...large round nearly gull-sized shorebird with brown back, black head, and long, bright orange bill! Long pale legs, bright eye, pale white undersides, etc. Strong white wing markings on otherwise dark

wings when in flight.

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

This guy was loafing on the docks at the Lake Nockamixon marina with a mixed group of gulls for several hours (mostly Ring-billed and a few Laughing Gulls present).

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Not really relevant as no species is similar. Black Oystercatcher would be unprecedented, and also would lack bright white underbelly.

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

Like the Laughing Gulls it was loosely associated with, this bird was obviously displaced by Hurricane Sandy. It stayed with the gull flock throughout the day, mostly relaxed but occasionally flushing from the docks and flying around and calling with the gulls when disturbed by raptors or dog walkers. Almost unbelievably, this is the third American Oystercatcher I've seen at Lake Nockamixon since 2003; two were associated with strong fall storms, and one was an odd spring vagrant.

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

Yes

During

none

After

None

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[AMOY_2012Nockamixon029a.jpg](#)

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