

Submission Date	2012-11-27 13:32:39
Observer's Name	Cameron Rutt
E-mail	cameronrutt@gmail.com
Observer's Address	Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld, Frank Windfelder, George Armistead, Todd Fellenbaum, Martin Dellwo
Species (Common Name)	Royal Tern
Species (Scientific Name)	Thalasseus maximus
Number of individuals	5
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	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)
Observation Date and Time	10-30-2012 8:46 AM
County	Philadelphia
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Philadelphia
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Pennypack on the Delaware
Habitat	All five Royal Terns were seen flying over the Delaware River
Viewing conditions	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
Optical equipment used	Swarovski EL 8.5x42 binoculars, Swarovski ST-80 scope, and a Canon 60D with a 400mm f/5.6L
Description	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.
Behavior (be as detailed as	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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