

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-09-09 19:34:50
Observer's Name	Geoff Veith
E-mail	veithlaw@icloud.com
Phone	6106396017
Observer's Address	458 Harper Ave DREXEL HILL PA 19026 United States
Names of additional observers	None
Species (Common Name)	American Oystercatcher
Species (Scientific Name)	Haematopus palliatus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	08-26-2019 10:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59292282
County	Philadelphia
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Philadelphia
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	John Heinz Refuge, Impoundment
Habitat	Flying over marsh
Distance to bird	100 yrds horizontal, 150 feet vertical
Viewing conditions	Overcast day Trees were obstructing prolonged view.
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch 10 x 42 binocular
Description	I heard steady Peep peep peep, very distinct coming from the west. My view to the west was semi obstructed. The peep peep call became louder and I realized the bird was coming toward me (moving from west to east). I assumed the bird would be flying eye level but it was much higher. I noticed it was distinctly black and white; black head, neck, back and wings, white underside and white wing stripe continuing through tail. Unfortunately when the bird finally came into view, it was already past me, so I never saw the front; I only saw it from side and back and only for a few seconds as the trees blocked my view to the east.

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

It was flying quickly and calling steadily and loudly. Seemed excited.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

The absence of any brown with only contrasting black and white, complete black head and distinct white wing stripe along with the steady peep peep peep vocalization caused me to rule out other shore birds.

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

On the positive side, the vocalization and black/white contrast along with black head and neck strongly suggest Am Oystercatcher. On the negative side I didn't see the bill or eye so I didn't see the distinct orange bill, and I only visually observed the bird for 2-3 seconds as it flew by fairly high (at least 100', probably higher). I realize that Am Oystercatchers don't usually come inland; however, the marsh where I saw the bird is contiguous with the Darby Creek which empties into the Delaware River. It's possible the bird flew NE up the DE River, diverted up the Darby Creek, realized it was away from the River then flew East toward the River which brought it directly over the marsh where I saw it.

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

I am not positive. See above I'd say 70-80% certain. Wished I had a longer view and that I saw the front of the bird.

During

Sibley's

After

Sibley's and eBird

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