

Red-necked Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus)
In
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

SUBMITTED BY: Robert M. Schutsky

DATE: 23 May 1991 (not seen on two subsequent days)

LOCATION: PP&L's Holtwood Flyash Pond, NE corner in intersection of PA 372 and Old Pinnacle Road, Martic Township, Lancaster County, PA.

VIEWING TIME: Initially 0930 to 1015, then intermittently through the day by various individuals and small groups until close to sunset.

WEATHER: Sunny, warm, and humid, light breeze, temperature in the 80's.

OPTICAL

EQUIPMENT: Bushnell Custom 10 x 40 binoculars and Bushnell Spacemaster II 20 - 45x spotting scope. To the best of my knowledge no photographs were obtained.

INITIAL

OBSERVERS: Robert Schutsky and Cathy Hicks. Later seen by Harold Morrin, Jonathan Heller, Steve Santner, Randy Miller, Jo Pederson, Chris Pederson, Jerry Book, Beth Morrison.

DESCRIPTION:

Upon arrival at the Flyash Pond, a quick scan revealed what appeared to be a phalarope near the far end of the impoundment. The initial identification was based upon general size, body shape, and the distinctive behavior of spinning around from side to side while picking and stabbing for food.

Cathy and I walked along the dike until we were as close as we could be to the bird, which varied from approximately 100 to 300 feet. From this distance sufficient details were seen to identify the bird as a female Red-necked Phalarope in breeding plumage. The bill was dark and straight, but not exceedingly long and needle-like as in Wilson's Phalarope. The head and nape were dark gray or black, with a small amount of white near the eye, perhaps a broken eye ring. The chin was white. The throat was reddish brown, which extended around the neck and somewhat up onto the lower nape, which constricted the black of the nape at that point.

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The overall mantle and back color was dark grey. There were two bright buffy stripes on each side over the scapulars and coverts. The sides and underparts were white, with large black spotting on the flanks. Leg and foot color were not noted.

The only previous spring record for the County was a female at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on 18 May 1978.

RMS/gmh

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Red-necked Phalarope**

Date of Sighting: **23 May 1991**

Observer(s): **Robert Schutsky**

Date of Submission: **1991**

Submitted by: **Robert Schutsky**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Leberman			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Bm Haas

Date:

3/7/92