

330-01-1994

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

(Phalaropus lobatus)

To Popuk

14 August, 1994 Somerset County

The Sunday was rainy most of the day, but rain ceased and skies cleared around 6 p.m. I went to the lake in Somerset and was rewarded with seven Black Terns there. Excited by the prospect of a fall-out, I quickly headed for a mud flat area outside of Garrett where yesterday there had been only very few birds.

I arrived at the mudflat area on T435 (Blackfield Road) off of the Garrett shortcut around 8 p.m. and as I approached I set up a scope and panned over the area. I found a small cluster of shorebirds at one end of a large pool and immediately noticed a phalarope among them. There was also one sanderling, several dozen semi-palmated plovers, some killdeer, and 10-20 peeps (I believe that they were semi-pals. I spent little time on them because of precious daylight and the excitement of a phalarope.).

I have observed Red-necked Phalarope in Alaska (this year), Wisconsin, and California. I have observed Wilson's Phalarope in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. I have only limited experience with Red Phalarope, but observed them once during a pelagic trip in Delaware waters.

Daylight was starting to fade, but was plenty adequate for identification as I observed the bird from 8 - 8:20 p.m. I was using a Bushnell Spacemaster spotting scope with a zoom lens 15 x 45x at distances of 80 yards at first to 30 yards as I worked closer.

The bird was at the water's margin, occasionally in, mostly out; but did not swim. Neither did it vocalize. The bird was most similar in size to the semi-palmated plovers around it. In contrast, the sanderling appeared chunky and larger compared to this bird and the peeps somewhat smaller.

Its bill was long and thin, but not needle-like. Its plumage overall was white belly, breast, throat and chin with some faint rufous-chestnut shading nearly crossing the dorsal-most breast area. An eye line/patch extended posterior from the eye and then terminated abruptly. The back was mostly grey with warm brown undertones, feather edgings, and light tan bars forming two loose "V's" on it. Legs were dark.

I recognized the bird as a Red-necked Phalarope in transitional plumage, more nearly winter plumage.

Scott J. Bestian

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Date of Sighting: 14 August 1994 to 14 August 1994

Location: LAKE SOMERSET

County: SOMERSET

Observer(s): Scott Bastion

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: Scott Bastion

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

9-19-95