

Barb Dean
321 E. Meyer Ave.
New Castle, PA 16105

330-03-1996

P.O.R.C.

Red-necked Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus)

Date: September 7, 1996

Location: At the Plain Grove area of Lawrence County on the east side of Mason Rd.

Time: 12:30 to 12:55 PM

Weather Conditions: It had rained all through the night of September 7, 1996 and continued to rain off and on through-out the day.

Equipment Used: Zeiss 10x binoculars - Bausch & Lomb telescope between 20x to 35x - Pentax SLR camera with long lense set at approx. 250mm or less and 200 speed Kodachrome film.

Viewing Distance: 300 plus or minus feet.

Habitat: Mason Road runs through an area where sand and gravel is being mined. I have included photos of the area. The two photos that are bright and sunny were taken several days after the Red-necked Phalarope was here and were simply taken with the lense set at 75mm to show the ~~habitat~~, Hills of sand and gravel, some perhaps 50 -60 feet high ~~surrounding~~ large and small bodies of water. The phalarope and most of the shorebirds are seen at the smooth flat area at the edge of the water.

Experience: I have no experience with any phalarope in winter plumage but I have seen three species of phalarope, including Red-necked Phalarope.

Other observers: None except my husband, George.

George and I began birding on Saturday, September 7, 1996 at 7:30 AM. It had rained all night and was still raining. It was 60° as we headed toward the Mason Road area to look for shorebirds. We found four Pectoral Sandpiper at the Sand and Gravel Mining area.

We birded all morning in the Plain Grove area searching for puddles in the farm fields, hoping to find shorebirds. We decided to go back to Mason Rd. one more time.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)
Lawrence County -September 7, 1996

It had rained off and on all morning and as we headed north on Mason Road, it now was just a light drizzle. We were driving through the Sand and Gravel area and I looked east over the water and saw 20 Pectoral Sandpipers and one pure white bird which was about the same size as the Pectorals. The Pectorals were on the smooth sandy area next to the water and the white bird was in the water and about two feet from shore. I used my binoculars and was able to tell it was a phalarope but I didn't know if it was Red-necked or Red. I quickly got the scope set up and studied the bird.

The bird was swimming close to the shore. It would occasionally swim in a circle so that I was able to view it from all sides. I was looking at the bird from a slight elevation. The bird had a delicate and graceful look. Pure white on the front of the crown, chin, neck, belly and all the underparts. The bird sat high on the water, floating buoyantly. Because of this, I was able to see some of the black leg color on its right side. The bill was very thin and black and about the same length as the width of the head when viewed from the side. The black patch extended straight back from the eye. It did not curve down, nor did it slant down as the books show but looked more like the shape of the juvenile patch shown on page 121 of the second edition of the National Geographic Field Guide. In other words, I do not know if I saw an adult or a juvenile bird. My bird did show a black eye with a white ring under the eye and then a black partial ring that started at the black eye patch and came in a curve under the eye and ended just a little above the bill. The back part of the crown and the nape and mantle looked like a black to charcoal grey stripe ^{going} ~~went~~ down the back of the neck. The neck stripe met the upperparts of the bird which were a medium to darkish blue-gray which contrasted very sharply with white stripes. I could see faint light flecks of gray running along the wing edge along the entire side of the bird to the flanks.

Then I got out two field guides and realized I had Red-necked Phalarope.

I called Nancy Rodgers who lives nearby and also called for Suzanne Butcher. Suzanne was birding some where else and Nancy was on her way. The bird covered about 20 feet of water at the edge of the shoreline and I got in the car and began to read the field guides when I heard the shorebirds take off in a southerly direction. Nancy arrived about five minutes after the birds had flown. I never saw the Red-necked Phalarope in flight and I never heard it make a sound.

If this record is approved it would be the first time it has ever been listed in Lawrence County.

Feel free to discard photos.

Barbara Dean

P.S.

Shortly after writing this document - I did some research and found that juvenile Red-neck Phalarope has pinkish legs. I realize I saw an adult bird.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: 7 September 1996 to 7 September 1996

Location: PLAIN GROVE

County: LAWRENCE

Observer(s): Barb Dean

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Barb Dean

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):

J C Haas

Date:

8-16-97