

### SENECA ROCKS AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of rare or unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all except as a guide. Attach additional sheets as necessary. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. The following checklist can be used to remind yourself of items that you want to include in this report. Not all of these points will be seen, nor are they all necessary to correctly identify a species, but not including something you saw lessens the value of your documentation. PLEASE REPORT WHAT WAS SEEN, NOT WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN.

#### SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

- Give size compared to a common bird
- Shape ( warbler, thrush, hawk, etc.)
- Head: colors and pattern
- Eye: color, ring, stripe, lore, brow
- Bill: length, color
- Legs: color, length, toes (number, type)
- Upperparts: nape (neck), back, rump
- Tail: colors, shape, pattern, length
- Underparts: throat, breast, belly, flanks, vent
- Wings: colors, wingbars, length, wing linings, shape

         Parts of bird that couldn't be seen

#### BEHAVIOR:

- Posture
- Feeding method
- Flight pattern
- Vocalization
- Preening or sleeping
- Other species present
- Interactions with other birds
- Nesting (building, brooding, etc.)

#### NUMBER, SEX, AGE:

- Number of birds
- Sex by plumage or behavior
- Age by plumage or behavior

#### LOCATION:

- Place name (town, park, SGL, etc.)
- County and State
- Habitat (field, woods, water, plants, etc.)

#### CONDITIONS:

- Time of day
- Temperature
- Sky/cloud cover
- Precipitation/snow cover
- Water (depth, waves, % ice)
- Wind (speed, direction)
- Moon phase
- Sun (location in relation to you and bird) Above in front
- Length of sighting
- Distance to bird APPROXIMATELY 150 ft
- Optics (binos, scope, power of each)
- Experience with this species, years birding
- How were similar species eliminated?
- Field guide used (during and after sighting)
- Was description written from notes made during observation, notes made after observation, or memory? Was field guide used prior to writing field notes?
- Other observers (are they reporting?) JEAN Jaworski
- Sketch or photograph (sketches, no matter how basic, are extremely useful)

SPECIES RED-NECKED Phalarope DATE SIGHTED 7/31/97

#### SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

Smaller than a Wilson's Phalarope with a shorter thicker, but still needle-like, body was chunky with a smallish head and neck region. Head had a black crown and eye patch, dark eye, white face and chin. Neck was grayish brown on dorsal white on ventral and the gray extended down the shoulder/collar, belly was white, some buffy appearance on the collar. Dorsal side, shades of brown/gray on back + wings with distinct buffy-off white lines on back + with a whitish wing bar (lines and bars were very distinct - ruling out Red Phalarope) Dark Bill, possible slightly decurved - couldn't tell with movement, legs app

gray, but not black.

The plumage patterns rule out Wilson's + Red phalaropes. The bill was needlelike, ruling out Red, but not as long/thin as a Wilson's



BEHAVIOR:

The bird was resting in the water near the edge of the shore and would move out and rapidly spin in circles. It did seem to be feeding. Other shore birds around included: Am. Avocet, semipalmated plover, killdeer, birds sandpiper, least sandpiper, western sandpiper, upland sandpiper (nearby) sandpeeps, lots of spotted sandpeeps, pectoral sandpiper, short-billed dowitcher, solitary sandpiper.

NUMBER, SEX, AND AGE:

1 bird - it appeared to be a juvenile

LOCATION: Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park

CONDITIONS, TIME, WEATHER, OPTICS, EXPERIENCE:

Sunny, about 7:30 am until about 9:30 pm on the point, about 30 min to 45 min with the phalarope, 76°, 0 wind, clear sky. 8x42 Leica binoculars TSN2 Kowa Scope. I have seen 3 Wilson's phalaropes in the last 2 months. It was not a Wilson's. I had to refer to my Natl Geo Bird Guide to separate it from red, because I could keep red + red-necked straight in my mind. After I got home later, I looked in the Audubon Eastern Birds Handbook and the bird was identical to the juvenile pictured.

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, DATE OF WRITE-UP:

John G. FEOK  
221 WASHINGTON ST  
NEW BETHLEHEM  
PA 16242

(814) 275 4086

WRITTEN UP 7/31/97

## SENECA ROCKS AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of rare or unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all except as a guide. Attach additional sheets as necessary. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. The following checklist can be used to remind yourself of items that you want to include in this report. Not all of these points will be seen, nor are they all necessary to correctly identify a species, but not including something you saw lessens the value of your documentation. PLEASE REPORT WHAT WAS SEEN, NOT WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN.

### SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

- Give size compared to a common bird
- Shape ( warbler, thrush, hawk, etc.)
- Head: colors and pattern
- Eye: color, ring, stripe, lore, brow
- Bill: length, color
- Legs: color, length, toes (number, type)
- Upperparts: nape (neck), back, rump
- Tail: colors, shape, pattern, length
- Underparts: throat, breast, belly, flanks, vent
- Wings: colors, wingbars, length, wing linings, shape
- Parts of bird that couldn't be seen

### BEHAVIOR:

- Posture - standing
- Feeding method - down into water
- Flight pattern
- Vocalization
- Preening or sleeping
- Other species present
- Interactions with other birds
- Nesting (building, brooding, etc.)

### NUMBER, SEX, AGE:

- 1 Number of birds
- Sex by plumage or behavior
- Age by plumage or behavior, juvenile

### LOCATION: Prosgire Isle State Park

- Place name (town, park, SGL, etc.)
- County and State Pa
- Habitat (field, woods, water, plants, etc.) Shoreline

### CONDITIONS:

- Time of day Am 7:45 am
- Temperature 70°
- Sky/cloud cover clear, patchy clouds
- Precipitation/snow cover
- Water (depth, waves, % ice)
- Wind (speed, direction)
- Moon phase beginning new moon
- Sun (location in relation to you and bird) front/above
- Length of sighting 30 minutes
- Distance to bird.
- Optics (binos, scope, power of each) binos /scope
- Experience with this species, years birding
- How were similar species eliminated?
- Field guide used (during and after sighting)
- Was description written from notes made during observation, notes made after observation, or memory? Was field guide used prior to writing field notes? memory
- Other observers (are they reporting?) John Fedak
- Sketch or photograph (sketches, no matter how basic, are extremely useful)

SPECIES Red-necked phalarope DATE SIGHTED 7/31/97

### SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

Robin sized, slightly larger, head - rounded w black cap, white along side. Eye - Black patch, surrounded by white.  
 Bill - black, 1 1/2", narrow. legs. thin, long (3") brown, 3 toes.  
 Upper body parts - black-brown plumage, white stripe along wing length, neck white front, tan near back tail - black-brown.  
 Underparts - white throat, breast, belly.  
 Wings - black-brown with white stripe, wing lining - white  
 Couldn't see feet well

BEHAVIOR: Standing, brief feeding

NUMBER, SEX, AND AGE:

1 bird, juvenile

LOCATION:

Presque Isle State Park

migratory bird area gull pt.

CONDITIONS, TIME, WEATHER, OPTICS, EXPERIENCE:

Sunny, 7:30am, warm

binoculars

scope

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, DATE OF WRITE-UP:

Jean Jaworski

RD1 Box 195

Mayport PA 16240 (814)-365-5695 7/31/97

MAIL COMPLETED REPORT TO: MARGARET BUCKWALTER, RD# 2, SHIPPENVILLE, PA 16254  
(814-782-3925)

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: 31 July 1997 to 31 July 1997

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): John Fedak; Jean Jaworski

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: John Fedak; Jean Jaworski

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					
P. Schwalbe			X					
K. Parkes		X						
R. Ickes			X					
P. Hess				X				
J. McWilliams			X					
T. Floyd		X						
TOTALS		2	5	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*J. Haas*

Date:

4-19-99