

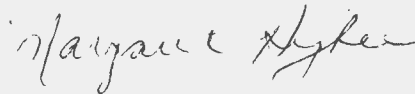
330-01-1999

Red-necked Phalarope

On the afternoon of August 29, 1999, a brief stop at Yellow Creek yielded a Red-necked Phalarope for Roger and me. The bird was feeding on the mud in the same cove where we found the Wilson's Phalarope in July near the mouth of Little Yellow Creek. The bird was obviously a phalarope by its size and shape, the black behind the eye, and the bird's behavior. Although it fed mainly on the mud and in the shallow puddled water, at one point, the bird entered the lake and spun around several times before returning to the mud. We observed the bird in the mud, on the water, and in flight for a period of about 45 minutes from a distance varying between 100 and 250 feet with our Swarovski variable power scope set between 30x and 60x. Other shorebirds present included 33 Killdeer, 1 Semipalmated Plover, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 1 Short-billed Dowitcher. The entire time we watched, the bird did not vocalize although it flew around repeatedly as the other shorebirds shifted positions.

The phalarope was in winter plumage with a white forehead, dark gray on the back of the crown, and a black patch around and extending back from the eye. The bird's back was patterned with gray and white, not plain, while the underparts were totally white. The bill was black, needle thin, and a tad longer than the bird's head. The bird's legs appeared brownish from the mud until it entered the water and reappeared with clean, dark gray legs. In flight the white wing stripe was noted. This was not a Wilson's Phalarope as the bill was too short, and the bird was too patterned. It was not a Red Phalarope as the bill was too long and not thick enough, and the bird did not appear chunky as Red Phalaropes usually impress me.

We could probably have approached more closely, but we were afraid of flushing the bird before other birders had seen it. It was seen later in the day and at closer range by Dennis Lauffer, Dori Jacobs, John Salvetti, Gloria Lamer, Georgette Syster, Amber Beale, Betsy Fetterman, Jed Fetterman, Mike and Evelyn Fowles, Merle and Karen Jackson, and Randi and Sarah Gerrish. This was a second county record with the first being a bird seen on August 28, 1986, by Anne Hedgpeth and me.



Margaret and Roger Higbee

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Red-necked Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus)

Date of Sighting: 29 August 1999 to 29 August 1999

Location: INDIANA

County: YELLOW CREEK STATE PARK

Observer(s): Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

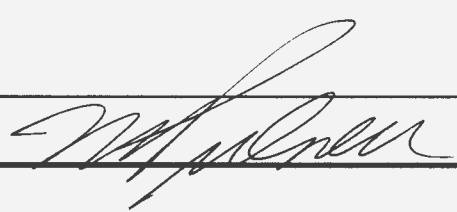
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
M. Sharp			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 2/26/01