

330-01-2002

by Michael Schall

State/Regional Bird Records Committee

Rare Bird Report Form

Species: Red-necked Phalarope Date: 9 / 1 / 2002

Number-Age-Sex: (1) winter plumage Time: 3:30 to 4:30pm

Location: Martins Creek Flyash Basin (PPL property), Northampton County

Habitat: man-made pond, stayed in water around small gravel flat

Weather Conditions: A storm was moving North up the East Coast
light to moderate rain, breezy

Distance: Between 75 and 100 yards

Optical Equipment: Pentax 10x40 Binoculars
Leica APO-Televid 77 scope at 40 to 50X

Photographs Taken?: Yes: No:

Other Observers:

Name	Address	Phone	e-mail
<u>Adam Miller</u>	<u>Bath, PA</u>	<u>610-759-2065</u>	
<u>Rick Wiltraut</u>	<u>Nazareth, PA</u>	<u>610-759-5184</u>	
<u>Steve Boyce</u>	<u>Nazareth, PA</u>		
<u>Ed Boyce</u>			

Experience of main observer: Saw a Red-necked phalarope in winter plumage
a few years ago.

Date Description Written: 9 / 1 / 02

Description of Sighting: (include size, shape, color patterns, song, call notes, behavior, and other diagnostic characteristics, but only what was actually observed in the field. Attach sketches, photographs, and additional sheets, if necessary.)

This small sandpiper was quickly identified as a phalarope by its foraging method. It would rapidly spin in tight circles, then poke its head in the water. The body size was closest to the semipalmated sandpipers that were present. The Lesser Yellowlegs (~100) were much larger. It had a black crown and hind neck that extended down to the back. There was a black patch on the face that extended back from the eye. The bill was black and needlelike. Its back was a brownish-black color with white striping. There was a trace of buff on the upper flanks, otherwise the underparts and front of neck were white. Legs could not be seen, it stayed in shallow water the entire time.

Similar Species / How Eliminated:

The Red-necked Phalarope seen was in winter plumage and that is what I looked at in the books when comparing each species. Reference books include:

Field Guide to the birds of North America by National Geographic

The Sibley Guide to Birds by David Sibley

Master Guide to Birding Vol 1. by The Audubon Society

*continued on next page

Name: Michael Schall Signature: Michael Schall Date: 10/20/02

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Mail this form along with accompanying (stapled) materials to:
Address of Committee inserted here.

Similar Species / How Eliminated

Wilson's Phalarope has a similar needle-like black bill, but is eliminated because of the lack of a dark ear patch on its white face and pale gray unstreaked back. The back of its neck and top of its head are pale gray, not black like the Phalarope seen.

Red Phalarope is larger headed with a thicker (heavy) bill than Red-Necked. The back is pale gray and unstreaked. There is a partial black crown (front of crown area is white) on its head. These features eliminate Red Phalarope. A molting juvenile might have a similar back pattern but is eliminated by thicker bill and lack of a full black crown. The juvenile only shows a minimal amount of black color on the back of the head and nape area.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Red-necked Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus)

Date of Sighting: 1 September 2002 to 1 September 2002

Location: MARTIN'S CREEK FLYASH BASIN

County: NORTHAMPTON

Observer(s): Michael Schall et al.

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Michael Schall et al

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. Heathcote				X				
P. Hess					X			
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			3	2	2			
DECISION				X				

Comments:

3/4

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

6/12/03