

Nick Pulcinella

330-03-2003

From: <JerryMcW@aol.com>
To: <nickpul@bellatlantic.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 15, 2003 2:47 PM
Subject: Red-necked Phalarope description

Nick,

Sorry about the delay in getting this to you.

Jerry

Red-necked Phalarope
Phalaropus lobatus

Location: Pymatuning Reservoir, Crawford County
Date: September 19, 2003
Time: 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM
Weather: Cloudy, west wind to about 10 mph
Observer: Jerry McWilliams
Viewing conditions: good
Viewing distance: several hundred yards away
Optics: TSN 4 Kowa scope at 35X

Description: Having just arrived at the spillway with the scope mounted on the window I began to scan the water on the southeast side of the road. Within a couple of minutes I spotted a distant phalarope circling around and then land on the water. Moments later another two or three joined it. Directly behind the phalaropes there were at least three Black Terns feeding just above the water. While focused on the terns a flock of phalaropes passed through my field of view. I stopped looking at the terns and tried to get a count on the total number of phalaropes and came up with at least 21 birds. They eventually all landed on the water in one loose flock. I studied them for about an hour. They never sat on the water long, but when they did they were frantically picking at the water. They never came very close and when they flew they always stayed in area of about 300 yards. They all appeared to be equal in size and behavior. At times the flock would split up and they would circle around and hover over the water for a moment reminding me of swallows. Despite the distance I was able to see their blackish mantles and wings, indicative of juveniles, with distinctive white wing stripes. Their breasts and bellies were all white and the typical phalarope black mask through the eye could be clearly seen. I did see at least a couple of birds with grayish mantles indicating that at least some were in basic plumage. They were too far away to make anything of the size or shape of their bills. I know they were Red-necked Phalaropes and not red Phalaropes because they had narrow wings that were very dark above showing much contrast with the white wing stripe and the undersides of their wings were not pure white as in Red Phalarope. Their flight was very erratic unlike the fairly steady flight of red Phalarope. On the water they showed much contrast between the dark upperside and white underside unlike the paler plumage of Red Phalarope. They were far too small and dark for Wilson's Phalarope

12/14/2003

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Red-necked Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus)

Date of Sighting: 19 September 2003 to 19 September 2003

Location: PYMATUNIG RESERVOIR

County : CRAWFORD

Observer(s): Jerry McWillimas

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Jerry McWillimas

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V | Abstain |
|--------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| G. Armistead | | | X | | | | | |
| D. Heathcote | | | X | | | | | |
| P. Guris | | | | X | | | | |
| J. Stanley | | | X | | | | | |
| E. Witmer | | | X | | | | | |
| R. Leberman | | | X | | | | | |
| M. Sharp | | | X | | | | | |
| TOTALS | | | 6 | 1 | | | | |
| DECISION | | | X | | | | | |

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

11/9/04