

First Greene County record of a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*).

On 21 Sept., 1991, Clay Faddis called to tell me about an unusual bird swimming and feeding on a small farm pond in a pasture field about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northwest of Dry Tavern, Pa. He said the bird was first noticed ^{on} 15 Sept. when the pond was being enlarged with a bulldozer and added that the bird showed little fear of the dozer. The next morning it was still there and we could easily get within 15 feet of it as it fed and swam about the small pond. It was a sandpiper type bird with a white forehead, ~~#####~~ throat and breast along with the characteristic blackish eyeline stripe, ^{indicated} it was a phalarope - but which one? The rather broad bill indicated it was a Red Phalarope but the bill was black. A little research indicated the immatures have black bills. Since confirmation of such a rare bird seemed necessary, I called Dr. George A. Hall who lives near Morgantown, W. Va. George is the Appalachian Regional editor ^{FOR} of AMERICAN BIRDS and also author of W. VA. BIRDS and he was kind enough to come and confirm the sighting.

Merrill Wood's BIRDS OF PA. (1979) states that the Red Phalarope is a casual migrant from July through October, with stragglers in Nov. and Dec., in Beaver, Berks, Crawford, Center, Chester, Erie, Delaware, Philadelphia, Westmoreland and Wyomong counties.

I then called Deuane Hoffman, who is trying to top the Barbara and Frank Haas big year (1986) and he came the next day but the phalarope was gone. I felt sorry that such a long trip ^{was made} for nothing. I should have guessed the bird was ready to go as it kept raising and testing its wings as George Hall and I studied the bird.

One wonders why such a sea-loving bird was here at this far inland location. Was it blown off course by the hurricane off the Atlantic coast in Sept.?

RED PHALAROPE IN GREENE COUNTY ,PA

DATE September 22, 1991

PLACE The Robert Goslin Farm, near Dry Tavern,, Greene County, PA.

HABITAT A small farm pond that was at a low water level because of the drought. The owner had been bulldozing out the bottom muck and so the pond was quite muddy.

CHARACTERS NOTED That the bird was a phalarope was obvious from the characteristic black through the eyes. The bill was black (as it is in young birds) but was stout and not needle-like as in the Red-necked Phalarope. The back was gray and unmarked. The dark stripe on the wing was more obvious than it is in most field guide pictures. The legs were yellow-olive.

CIRCUMSTANCES Mr Goslin reported that it had been present for about a week when he informed Bell of the bird. Bell went to see it on the 22nd and made a tentative identification, although he had had no previous experience with any phalarope. Bell then called Hall and the two of them studied the bird on the afternoon of the 22nd.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE Bell had no previous experience with any phalarope. Hall has seen all three species and has studied the Red Phalarope offshore from Long Beach and San Francisco, CA, and a grounded individual at Cape May NJ. Several years ago he examined a large number of museum specimens of the Red Phalarope in preparation for a paper on the soft-part colors of the species that he and K.C. Parkes proposed to write but never did.

Ralph K. Bell (Route 1 Box 229, Clarksville PA 15322)

and George A. Hall (Route 12 Box 89, Morgantown WV 26505)

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: Red Phalarope

Date of Sighting: 15 September 1991 to 22 September 1991

Observer(s): Ralph Bell

Date of Submission: 1991

Submitted by: Ralph Bell

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas		X					
F. Haas		X					
R. Leberman		X					
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner				X			
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS		3	3	1			
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Gm Haas

Date:

3/7/92