

8 June 1994

Kerry Grim  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Assoc. Library  
R.R. 2 Box 191  
Kempton, PA 19529-9802

Dear Mr. Grim,

Thank you for sending documentation to P.O.R.C. on the Red Phalarope you saw at Kaercher Creek Park on 27 September 1991. After careful review we regret that we cannot accept this record. Several committee members felt that not enough details were included (particularly details of the bill shape and color) to conclusively rule out Red-necked Phalarope. This does not of course mean that the bird was not a Red Phalarope. In fact, five out of seven committee members voted in favor of this species, but the other two felt that the evidence was not quite concrete enough (six out of seven votes are needed for acceptance).

Please do not be discouraged. We hope that this information encourages you to submit detailed documentation of any rare birds you find in the future. If more supporting evidence of the Red Phalarope is available, please feel free to resubmit this record.

Sincerely,

Ed Kwater  
Chairman

Record #331-02-1991

331-02-1991

Red Phalarope Sighting Report  
by Kerry A. Grim 9/30/91

Pore

SPECIES—Red Phalarope

DATE SEEN—September 27, 1991

LOCATION—Kaercher Creek Park near Hamburg, Pennsylvania

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN? no

DESCRIPTION—Shore bird with white underneath, uniform gray on top, black through eyes and on the back of the head and neck. Its bill was equal to, or slightly smaller than head length and noticeably thick. Its back was a uniform gray.

BIRDS ACTIONS—spinning slowly in a circle, while feeding on a swarm of flying insects which were hanging in low vegetation in the water.

ALSO SEEN BY Mary Schappell of Hamburg, Pa. I was at the park at the same time Mary was there. She directed me to the shore bird. Her identification (independent of mine) was the same as mine. However, she looked at the range chart and wondered if a Red Phalarope was possible because of its scarcity inland.

VIEWING DISTANCE—as close as 15 to 20 feet with Zeiss 10 X 40 binoculars.

LIGHTING CONDITIONS—clear sky, directly lit by sun, approximately 1/2 hour before sunset.

VIEWING TIME—approximately 15 minutes.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE—only with Wilson's Phalarope.

WHY DID I IDENTIFY THIS AS A RED PHALAROPE AS OPPOSED TO A RED-NECKED PHALAROPE? I was able to take a Peterson's Field Guide, walk up to the bird and compare bird against book. Although its uniform gray back seemed an important point with identification, the thick bill was my convincing field mark for identification. A check of National Geographic Society's Field Guide to birds of North America confirmed my findings as a Red Phalarope.

OTHER COMMENTS—I made an unsuccessful check for the phalarope on the morning of 9/28, and (with several others) on the afternoon and evening of 9/29. Kenneth and Dorothy Grim saw a phalarope on the evening of 9/28. However, It was not nearly close enough for identification other than a phalarope.

MY BIRDING EXPERIENCE—have been birding seriously since 1974. Have been assisting Hawk Mountain Sanctuary with hawk counts since 1978. Although I have more experience with song birds, I do shore birding each year at Chincoteague, Middlecreek and Bombay Hook/Little Creek. I have completed 10 blocks (and helped others with their blocks) for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas.

Kerry A. Grim  
707 Turner St.  
Hamburg, PA 19526  
(215)562-4177

Kerry A. Grim

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: **Red Phalarope**

Date of Sighting: **27 September 1991 to 27 September 1991**

Observer(s): **Kerry Grim**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Kerry Grim**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater				X			
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner				X			
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			5	2			
DECISION				X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date:



# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Red Phalarope**

Date of Sighting: **27 September 1991 to 27 September 1991**

Observer(s): **Kerry Grim**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Kerry Grim**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater				X			
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner				X			
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			5	2			
DECISION			<del>X</del>				

Comments: *Sent for Second Round*

Signature (Secretary):

*Bm Haas*

Date:

*2-27-93*