



~~360~~
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
330-03-1993

~~Sabine's Gull = One immature was seen at
Prince Gollitzin SP on 9/27 (G. Lamer).
It remained through 10/2 and was seen
by many birders from across the state.
N = New for the county, 1st County record.~~

RED PHALAROPE

Help! Please note our 2 observers
both deduce Red-necked Phalarope from
their observation & we have included
their write-ups. Studying the photo
there seems to us some question (from
other birders) as to whether it is Red-
necked or Red - Is there something
in the photos that you can see that
is definitive?

Either way, it is "new" for the
county.

LS + LL

26 January 1993

Gloria Lamer
RR 1 Box 183D
Penn Run, Pa. 15765

Dear Gloria:

The following is a brief description of the sighting of a Phalarope species at Prince Gallitzin State Park on November 9th, 1993.

After learning of a Phalarope sighting, by John Salvetti of Ebensburg, I traveled to Prince Gallitzin State Park arriving early in the morning on November 10, 1993. The bird was observed initially at a distance of approximately 100 yards in an open, ice-free area of the lake. This individual was "spin feeding" (typical of phalaropes), in a small area, in the company of several American Coot (*Fulica americana*). The sky was clear, temperature in the lower twenties, and with the sun above the eastern horizon the lighting was optimal. Optics used were 8.5 power binoculars and 20X60 power scope.

Initial observations, at the distance of 100 yards, were that this individual was grayish on the back, lighter underneath and had both dark gray crown/nape and dark gray eye patch. The bill appeared to be long and thin. With the lack of any striking, heavy streaks & barring on the back I was convinced that I was observing a Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). Upon returning to my vehicle I was bothered by some incongruities so I returned for another look; this time armed with a copy of National Geographic's field guide in addition to Peterson's guide, for in field comparisons.

To my surprise, the phalarope had moved closer to my vantage point and was now only 50 feet away. Upon closer inspection I observed that the bill was indeed thin, but shorter than originally thought. Faint barring lines were observed along the back although no wing stripe was observed. Due to the thin, short bill and faint barring I believe that this species was Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and not either Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) or Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*).

If you have any questions or need further clarifications please feel free to call. (814) 643-6030.

Have a great winter and "think Spring" !!

Dave Kyler

On Sunday, November 7, 1993 around 8:10 a.m., after walking the south side of Lake Galena I returned to the area just east of the bridge on Chapman Road. While looking upstream for Greenwing Teal a bird flew in front of me and landed on the road (macadam) about 50-60 feet from me. I wasn't sure what it was while it seemed to be pecking and feeding in the gravel on the road for about 10-15 seconds. It then flew to the edge of the water where debree, foam, feathers, etc. was located. Its' coloration matched its' surroundings. I knew it was a Phalarope but not which one. The identifying marks I observed are:

- ° Plain grey back
- ° an "hourglass" figure of black from the back of the head down the neck
- ° an all black, heavy bill
- ° a short black mark through and behind the eye
- ° black primaries with white edging
- ° its' behavior was swimming and walking over the logs, plastic, boards - its' lower breast-belly was getting green from the scum.

I was alone for about 10-15 minutes when I saw Ken Reikert coming down Chapman Road from the nature center. I motioned for him to come quickly - Ken had a scope and after careful looks we both agreed it was a Phalarope. Taking out his field guide - our observations matched the illustration of Red Phalarope. I stayed with Ken, joined by a Mike Fahey until 8:40 a.m. when I left to go home and call other birders.

Don McIntosh

RARE SPECIES REPORT

SPECIES: Red-necked Phalarope		NUMBER SEEN: One
SIGHTING DATE: 11-9-93		SIGHTING TIME: 10:25 am
LOCATION:	COUNTY & STATE: Cambria Co. - Pennsylvania DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: Prince Gallitzin St. Park - 4 miles Northeast of Tatton. DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: Located from bridge on LR 11055 where Slate Lick Creek crosses highway.	
HABITAT:	Marsh area interspersed with water lily type vegetation.	
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: Partly cloudy, good lighting conditions DISTANCE: ± 200 ft EQUIP. USED: Swift Audubon 8.5x44 binoculars - Bausch & Lomb 15x-60x Zoom Scope LENGTH OF SIGHTING: 25 min after which it remained at location	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: SIZE: Appeared to be smaller than other phalarope species previously observed. PLUMAGE: Black patch thru the eye & curved downward behind eye. Blue gray above with minimum streaking on back. Black streak on back of neck extending over the top of head to front of eye. ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): Bill shorter & more needle like than other Phalarope species. Leg color not observed. BEHAVIOR: Continued feeding for the entire 25 min period. Repeated swinging of neck & body back & forth (Right & Left) while picking food from water.	
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: Have observed Phalaropes on 5 previous occasions. Red-necked observed previously at Salton Sea, CA. on April 13, 1993.		
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: Smaller than Wilson's or Red Phalaropes observed at other locations. Bill smaller & more needle like than others. Did not spin as observed with Wilson's Phalarope.		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? IF SO, BY WHO?		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who?		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): Other observers: David Kyler (814-643-6030) Gloria Lamer (412-349-1159) Dave Gohert		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: John Salvetti		
ADDRESS: 519 E. Crawford St		PHONE # 814-472-9298
Ebensburg, PA. 15931		
SIGNATURE John L. Salvetti		DATE: 12-1-93

(OVER)

I began birding in May of 1984. Since then I have birded in 47 states and 5 Canadian Provinces. I consider myself a serious birder. I have 560 species on my North American Life List and have recorded 256 Pennsylvania species.

33/-02-1993

Record No.: ~~230-03-1993~~

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Red-~~tailed~~ Phalarope (~~Phalaropus lobatus~~)

Date of Sighting: 7 November 1993 to 10 November 1993

Location: PRINCE GALLITZIN STATE PARK

County: CAMBRIA

Observer(s): Dave Kyler; Don McIntock; John Salvetti
Gloria Lamer

Date of Submission: 1993

Submitted by: Gloria Lamer

Written Description: YES Photo: YES Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
J. Skinner								X
TOTALS	6							1
DECISION	X							

Comments: This record is changed to a Red Phalarope.

Signature (Secretary):

F. L. Haas

Date:

9-25-94