

## UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

**Species (Common & Scientific Name):** Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*)

**Subspecies, if known:**

**Number of Individuals:** 1      **Sex(es):** female

**Age(s) & Plumage(s):** breeding

**Date Seen:** 5/18/2011      **Time: Approx:** ~6:30 PM

**Where Seen (Town/County):** New Britain Twp., PA

**Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake):** Peace Valley Park

**Found by:** Devich Farbotnik

### Observer Reporting:

**Name:** August Mirabella

**Address:** 1443 Wheaton Lane  
North Wales, PA 19454

**E-mail:** [augustmirabella@aol.com](mailto:augustmirabella@aol.com)

**Telephone (optional):** 215-368-0594

**Other Observers** (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): Several

**Distance to Bird:** 300 yds.

**Viewing Conditions** (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): dismal, cloudy, rain

**Optical Equipment Used:** 7X42 Zeiss Bins & Leica Scope

**Habitat:** lake

**Description** (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage: Despite the bad conditions, the typical phalarope shape (longish vertical neck, longish bill on smallish head, and overall dark reddish color on the flanks, breast, and neck of a Red Phalarope could be seen. The back just looked dark due to the poor conditions and distance.

**Behavior** (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Generally swimming and picking at the surface in quick random stabs. It flew a couple of times so that the pale under-wings could be seen briefly.

**Vocalizations:** n/a

**Supporting Evidence if Any** (include with report): Video taken by Devich Farbotnik on his cell phone is attached but shows little other than the shape maybe.

**Separation from Similar Species** (How you eliminated others): The dark reddish areas are unique and eliminate the other phalarope. The shape and swimming behavior is unique compared to other reddish bellied shorebirds.

**Discussion** (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it): Several experienced observers witnessed this bird.

**Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species:** Two Red Phalaropes in one day, as I went to Longwood Gardens that day and saw that bird, too. Also, I have seen others in breeding plumage over the decades.

**Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not):** Yes

**References:**

During Observation: n/a

After Observation: n/a

**Date of report:** 9/28/2011

**Signature of Observer:** August Mirabella

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Red Phalarope    Phalaropus fulicaria

Date of Sighting: 18 May 2011 to 18 May 2011

County : BUCKS

Location : PEACE VALLEY PARK

Observer(s): August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus	X							
A. Guarente		X						
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
R. Koury	X							
D. Weber		X						
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	5	2						
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)    Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/11/12