











331-6-2911

Red Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicaria

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Location: Sunset Point, Presque Isle S.P., Erie, Pa.

Date: November 28, 2011

Time: 8:40 to 9:15 AM

Weather: cloudy, wind NNE to 20 mph, temp. 40 F

Viewing distance: as close as 40 feet

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular

Details of sighting: I was at my usual post at Sunset Point conducting the waterbird count when Shannon Thompson said she just saw a shorebird land on the water just west of breakwater #58, but then it flew west along the beach only to return and land in the water next to shore where it immediately began feeding in the two foot surf. There was no doubt that it was a phalarope. I ran down to the beach and viewed it for a few minutes before taking photographs.

The phalarope struck me as being very dark for this late in the season, even for a juvenile. There were only a few pale gray mantle feathers and some gray feathers on the sides of the otherwise pure white underside. At first I thought Red-necked Phalarope because of the overall darkness of the bird and because of the dark feathers on the under wing median coverts that is typical of Red-necked phalarope. However, the bill was just too thick for a Red-necked. The bill looked completely black in the field, but photographs show that the very base of the bill has some dark brown. There were a few gray feathers coming in on the otherwise dark cap. The bird had the typical phalarope patch over the eye and the pink blush on the sides of its face and neck also indicated it was an immature. Photos show the legs as being a dull or dirty yellow. The upper wings were very dark with a relatively wide white wing stripe. I have seen many fall Red Phalaropes, but never one with such a delayed molt. It is ironic that last year on this same date I photographed a Red Phalarope that was in full basic plumage.

The photographs I took this morning clearly show the field marks described above.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Red Phalarope Phalaropus fulicaria

Date of Sighting: 28 November 2011 to 28 November 2011

County : ERIE

Location : PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

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	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/11/12