

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-03-11 13:46:40
Observer's Name	Rick Koval
E-mail	unibirdr@yahoo.com
Phone	5709910580
Observer's Address	195 Quarry Road Laurel Run PA 18706 United States
Names of additional observers	Rich Pries
Species (Common Name)	Common Shelduck
Species (Scientific Name)	Tadorna tadorna
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Drake (male) in eclipse plumage
Observation Date and Time	09-16-2017 8:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S39291427
County	Luzerne
Location (City, Borough, Township)	West Nanticoke, Plymouth Twp., Pennsylvania
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Route 11. Hanover Nursery aka (Plymouth Flats)
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.2199212,-75.9719181
Habitat	Seasonal topsoil excavation pit in floodplain along Susquehanna River. A variety of seasonal and opportunistic emergent grasses, sedges, forbs and herbaceous plants occupy the site along with fish, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates, which provides abundant food resources for migratory and resident waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and passerines.
Distance to bird	200 yards to 200 feet
Viewing conditions	Clear day, sunny morning with great visibility

Optical equipment used	Zeiss 8 x 40 binoculars and Kowa 20 x 60 spotting scope
Description	Observed a mallard-sized duck that at first appearance had white body coloration and markings of a male common merganser and the bill similar to a northern shovel. The head and neck appeared to be grayish/green with a distinct reddish-pink bill that was slightly up-curved. The feet and legs were graying/pink. The sides of its body was bright white and the back grayish/brown. The primary wings were dark and the secondaries were a distinct chestnut color. In flight, the wings exhibited white coverts and white upfront and the outer parts of the wings were black.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	The bird was first observed feeding in the vegetative shallows, but abruptly flew away upon our approach. The bird flew hundreds of yards to open water at the southern end of the pond. When we approached to get more photographs the bird acted very skittish and flew to the open water at the most northern end of the pond. We decided not to disturb it anymore in order to alert fellow birders of our find.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ruled out mallard although similar in size but lacked chestnut breast, bright green head (drake), white neck ring, grayish sides and curled duck-tail feathers on behind. 2. Ruled out similar sized common merganser (drake) although it exhibited bright white sides and dark back, but did not have long narrow reddish bill. 3. Ruled out northern shoveler (drake) as bill look similar in profile but did not have wide flattened front of shoveler nor was the bill dak colored but bright pink and noticeably up-curved. The bird lacked rufous sides of northern shoveler. Overall size was much larger than northern shoveler.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	I had learned aftwerwards that there were two Common Shelducks reported in New England this fall already (1 in New York and another in New Hampshire) and there were some in the eastern Canadian provinces last winter. Photo was taken by Richard Pries. The bird was not relocated after subsequent visits by several birders including Richard and myself.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Quite positive in identification and hard to mistake.
During	iBird Pro, Merlin and internet
After	internet, Peterson's Eastern Birds, internet , actualy photo taken and email discusions with fellow birders.
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings



[Common Shelduck. Ply. Flats. Luzerne County. 9.16.17. photo rick pries .jpg](#)

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