

PA Rare Bird Report

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| Submission Date | 2016-09-01 12:12:31 |
| Observer's Name | Chad Hutchinson |
| E-mail | chadhutch15@gmail.com |
| Phone | 6109379455 |
| Observer's Address | Street Address: 2 Knollbrook Circle City: Malvern State / Province: Pennsylvania Postal / Zip Code: 19355 Country: United States |
| Names of additional observers | Chad Hutchinson, Holly Merker, Mike Defina |
| Species (Common Name) | Red Phalarope |
| Species (Scientific Name) | Phalaropus fulicarius |
| Number of individuals | 1 |
| Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known) | Juvenile in transition plumage |
| Observation Date and Time | 08-21-2016 4:50 PM |
| Did you submit this sighting to eBird? | Yes |
| Link to eBird checklist | http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31192003 |
| County | Chester |
| Location (City, Borough, Township) | Downingtown, Upper Uwchlan Township |
| Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road) | Marsh Creek State Park |
| GPS coordinates of sighting | 40.070311, -75.719692 |
| Habitat | Lake |
| Distance to bird | 50 yards |
| Viewing conditions | Overcast |
| Optical equipment used | Nikon Monarch 5 10x42 binoculars, Nikon D7100 DSLR camera with Sigma150-600mm lens |
| Description | Small shorebird with bulky neck and gray top of head, nape and eye stripe. Back was mottled indicating plumage was in transition. Slender black bill, thicker at the base. Broad, white wing stripes in flight. |
| Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) | The bird as observed sitting in the water after putting down due to a passing heavy rainstorm. The bird was in the company of approximately 8 Black Terns that eventually flushed it northeast up one of the fingers of Marsh Creek and out of sight. |

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Compared to a Red-Necked Phalarope, this bird had a thicker base of the bill, a stockier neck and chest, lighter gray head and facial markings, and a pinkish buffy blush around the throat. A Wilson's Phalarope would be much a lighter gray and have a longer bill.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

The bird was identified to be a juvenile REPH in transition plumage, unique to an inland encounter, as such birds would typically be seen along the coast or at sea.

Additional information and photographs are available on Holly Merker's eBird checklist, <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31190876>.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, input from experts such as Marshall Iliff, Brian Sullivan, M. O'Brien and others helped immensely to point out the identifying characteristics of this uniquely plumaged juvenile.

During

iBird app

After

Sibley Guide, National Geographic Guide, AllAboutBirds.org

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings



[33322491.jpg](#)



[33322501.jpg](#)



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