

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-04-16 21:26:32
Observer's Name	Evan Houston
E-mail	evanhouston@gmail.com
Observer's Address	21 Peachtree Ln Danville PA 17821 United States
Names of additional observers	Andrew Keister
Species (Common Name)	Red Phalarope
Species (Scientific Name)	Phalaropus fulicarius
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	04-16-2018 10:10 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44634525
County	Montour
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Danville
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Montour Preserve
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.104368, -76.657888
Habitat	lake
Distance to bird	750 feet
Viewing conditions	rain showers
Optical equipment used	Kowa TSN 883 Angled 88mm Prominar Spotting Scope

Description

This bird is transitioning from non-breeding to breeding plumage, and it might be a male, though I am not sure. I noticed the bird resting on the lake on a scope scan, and I immediately realized it was a phalarope. From my days birding in WA state, I have seen many Red-necked and Wilson's Phalaropes previously, and also Red Phalaropes a few times. The bill was mostly an orange-yellow color with a dark tip and relatively thick for a phalarope, and there was some rufous wash along the flanks (there might have been more extensive rufous wash in other places on the bird, but due to distance and rain showers it was hard to tell). When it flew briefly before settling back on the water, I mostly saw it from the rear rather than the side, but there was a lot of white visible on the underwing. There was a large dark patch near the eye. Due to the field marks I noted including the bill color and shape the rufous wash, I was confident in my in-field identification of Red Phalarope, not Red-necked Phalarope.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

It was mostly floating on the water, and I saw it fly at least once before it settled back down on the water.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

See above in Description. The closest similar species is Red-necked Phalarope, and the field marks I saw rule that species out.

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

The photos are poor due to the distance, and rain showers and low light. My description of the field marks above is based on my views through my scope, which allowed me to see much more coloration of the body and bill and plumage details. Andy Keister also got photos, not that much better, at this link: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44634789>

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

Yes

During

Sibley app

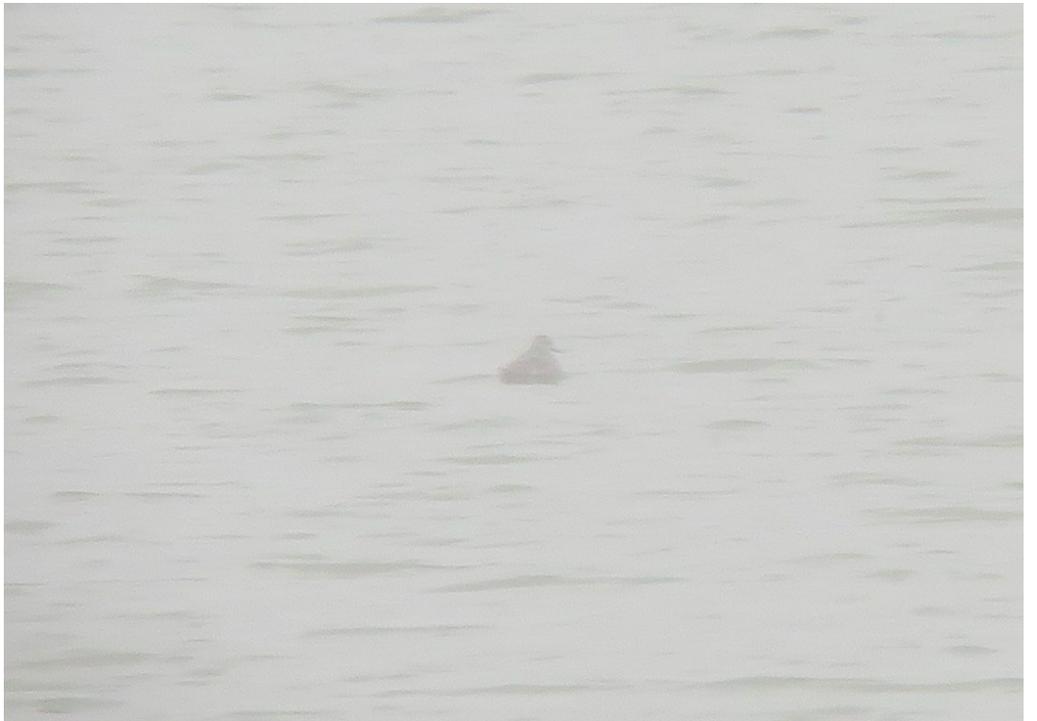
After

Sibley guide

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[IMG_6248.jpg](#)



[IMG_6250.jpg](#)

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