

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2019-03-11 13:46:40
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Rick Koval
<b>E-mail</b>	unibirdr@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	5709910580
<b>Observer's Address</b>	195 Quarry Road Laurel Run PA 18706 United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Rich Pries
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Common Shelduck
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Tadorna tadorna
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Drake (male) in eclipse plumage
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	09-16-2017 8:30 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S39291427">https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S39291427</a>
<b>County</b>	Luzerne
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	West Nanticoke, Plymouth Twp., Pennsylvania
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Route 11. Hanover Nursery aka (Plymouth Flats)
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	41.2199212,-75.9719181
<b>Habitat</b>	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.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	200 yards to 200 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Clear day, sunny morning with great visibility

<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Zeiss 8 x 40 binoculars and Kowa 20 x 60 spotting scope
<b>Description</b>	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.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	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.
<b>Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<b>Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:</b>	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.
<b>Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)</b>	Quite positive in identification and hard to mistake.
<b>During</b>	iBird Pro, Merlin and internet
<b>After</b>	internet, Peterson's Eastern Birds, internet , actualy photo taken and email discusions with fellow birders.
<b>Supporting evidence (check all that apply)</b>	Photograph

Upload images, audio, video  
or drawings



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

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