

Species: Red Phalarope Phalaropus fulicarius  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 20, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 1:15-1:45 PM to and 4:30 PM  
Locality: Barr Lake  
Nearest Town: Brighton County: Adams

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Jack Reddall</u>		
<u>Harold Holt (photographed the bird)</u>		

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars, 15-60X B&L Zoom telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Light Conditions: Sun shining on bird from behind observers

Distance from bird (how measured): A minimum estimated distance of 20-25 ft.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult-winter (nonbreeding)

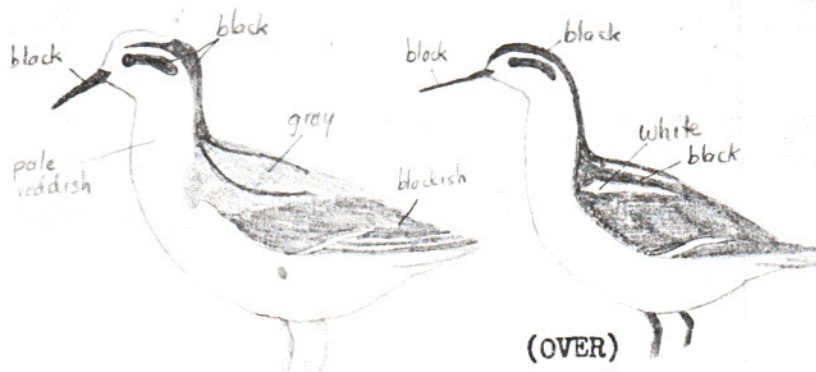
Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird was observed swimming buoyantly on the water, picking small aquatic insects off the surface of the water. Also fed by wading at the edge of the water, but never came completely out of the water. Always was seen alone, although other phalaropes were in the vicinity. Very tame and unafraid, seemed to ignore us standing very close by. Was observed flycatching later by Harold Holt, but this behavior was not noted during my observation of the bird.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Obviously a phalarope. Moderately long, thick, all black bill; forehead and crown white, with sides of crown, rear part of crown, nape and back of neck black; back gray with two thin brownish-blackish stripes running from back of the neck partially down the back; wings blackish with thin pale edgings to the feathers and a single white wing stripe, visible at close range even while the bird was sitting and also visible when in flight; rump black with white sides; tail mostly gray with a whitish base; auricular patch black; rest of face, throat, front of neck, breast, belly, sides, flanks, undertail coverts white, with a distinct pale reddish wash across the front of the neck. Leg color hard to determine, appeared pale greenish or grayish.

Refinement of sketches made in the field of Red Phalarope (left) and Northern (right). Note bill size and shape, crown pattern, color and pattern of back and back stripes.





Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Several times a high, thin "peet" given in flight.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Shallow water of a large plains irrigation reservoir with muddy shoreline.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Wilson's Phalarope: a different appearing shorebird, with white rump, no wing stripe, pale gray back, neck and crown, auricular patch not strongly defined, bill much thinner.

Northern Phalarope: the most similar species. Red was easily identified from Northern by bill, much heavier and thicker (Northern has a thin, almost needle-like bill), crown largely white (black in Northern) (see accompanying illustration), gray back with only markings being thinner, darkish stripes (Northern has black back with wide white stripes). Wing stripe seemed less conspicuous than in the Northern. Bird also appeared somewhat larger and somewhat chunkier than a Northern, although they were not directly compared.

Sanderling (only bird other than phalaropes that even closely resembles it) is much paler on crown, neck and back, with much larger wing stripes, black legs.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Considerable experience with Northern and Wilson's Phalaropes and Sanderling (in both male and female, breeding and nonbreeding plumages). Only prior experience with Red is one at Barr Lake 4 days earlier.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?  
Standard field guides substantiated the identification.

This report was written from notes made during X after        observation; from memory       

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: Oct 7, 1975  
Street Address: 1390 So Ivy Way Town and State: Denver, Colorado ZIP: 80222

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110



Species: RED PHALAROPE -

Phalaropus fulicarius

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 20, 1975

Time Bird Seen: 4:15 P.M.

to 4:30 P.M. - MDT

Locality: Barr Lake

Nearest Town: Brighton

County: Adams

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Robert Andrews -	1390 South Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80222	756-5553
Harold Holt -	2001 West 92nd, Space 716, Federal Heights, Colorado 80221	429-1698

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Binoculars; 15X-60X Telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Sun directly from behind observer.

Distance from bird (how measured): 25' to 75'

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Winter

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird was first observed swimming about in the water, darting here and there to pick up small gnats from the water surface or near the water surface. It worked its way toward the shore and eventually feed in the same active manner wandering in and out of the water. We eventually chased the bird up to make it fly whereupon it flew a short distance out into the water and began catching gnats on the water surface again. The bird was extremely tame and was not disturbed by my advance to make it fly. It only took to the air after I approached to within twenty-five feet and clapped my hands.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern.

Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

This bird appeared slightly chunkier and thicker necked than either of the other two Phalaropes. The bill was black for the entire length and no yellow was noticeable as is depicted in the Field Guides. The bill was also much stubbier than in either of the other two Phalaropes being quite noticeably thicker at the base. The face was white with a dark grayish-black patch extending from in front of the eye to well behind the ear area. The top of the head was blackish (darker than the ear patch) with the black area beginning above and behind the eye. The forehead was white. The back of the neck was dark gray. All underparts were white except for a strong trace of red on each side of the neck. The back was a soft gray unmarked except for some occasionally darkish markings on some of back feathers. There was no streaking as in the Northern Phalarope. The wings were dark and clearly marked with a whitish wing stripe which was evident in flight. The rump was dark as was the tail. The legs appeared greenish. The eye was dark.



Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

I did not hear the bird call.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Fresh water reservoir and associated mud flats.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

It was clearly a Phalarope, by shape, size and habits. Winter plumaged Phalaropes are eliminated as follows:

Wilson's Phalarope: Has white rump and tail and lacks wing stripe. Ear patch not nearly as pronounced. Long thin bill.

Northern Phalarope: Has longer, thinner bill. Legs are dark. Has dark back with white striping.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen winter-plumaged Red Phalaropes twice before-both times in California

Am well familiar with the two common Phalaropes in Colorado.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?  
None.

This report was written from notes made during x after x observation; from memory \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: JACK REDDALL

SIGNATURE: *Jack Reddall*

DATE: Sept. 21, 19

Street Address: 1450 South Alton Street

Town and State: Englewood, Colo.

ZIP: 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110