

Species: RED PHALAROPE
(Vernacular name)Phalaropus fulicarius
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): October 10, 1981 Time Bird Seen: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noonLocality: Barr Lake State Park, Adams County Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7/x35 binoculars, 25x scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: one Sex: _____ Plumage: winterLight conditions: excellentDistance from bird, and how measured: 20-50 feet. estimate

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

During the entire period of observation the bird was feeding in the water 20-40 feet off shore. It fed by dipping the bill rapidly in the water, 3-4 times per second, 24-30 times in 10 seconds; with a series of 5-10 dabs at the water broken by pauses of 1-3 seconds. It would sometimes rest from its feeding for 10-20 seconds. It dabbled in one direction, then another, but did not whirl.

It seemed unconcerned by the presence of about 20 birdwatchers, although it did tend to move away a little bit when we approached close to shore.

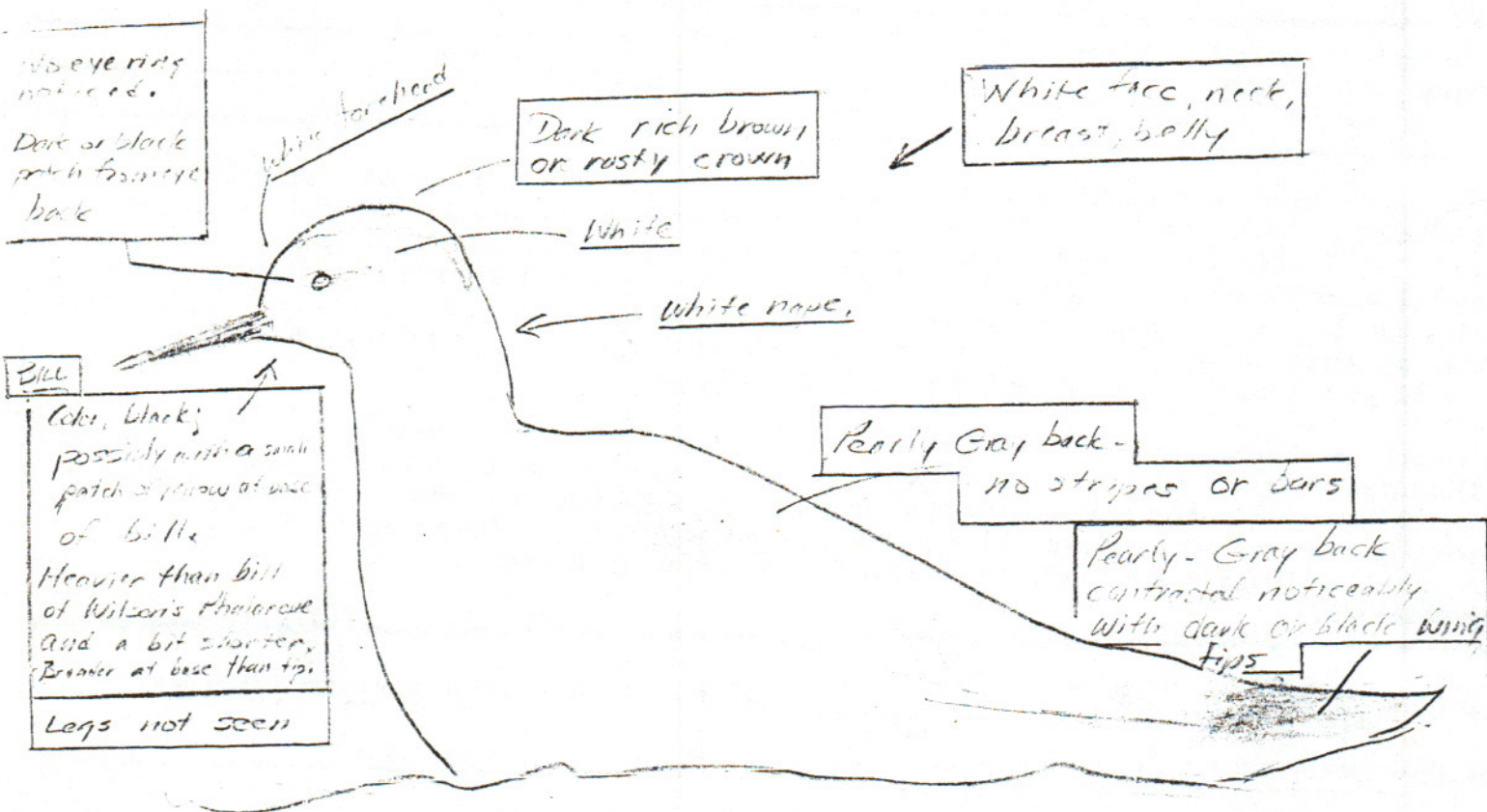
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Shallow pond--I suppose about 4 acres--left when the level of Barr Lake reservoir dropped. The pond held 500-1000 ducks, a few shorebirds on the far shore, some geese, and a few gulls.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Urling Kingery, same address.15 members of a beginners birdwatching class, who did not identify itindependently but did see the bird.

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field



★ List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Wilson's Phalarope: Wilson's has a thinner, longer bill. Our bird did not fly, or stretch its wings, so we could not observe the flight pattern.

Northern Phalarope: Northern has a somewhat slimmer bill. We separated our bird from the Northern by the lack of any stripes on the back, even any hint of stripes. Our bird's back was a pearly gray, rather uniformly colored. Its crown was not black, but rather a rich brown or almost rusty brown.

Our biggest problem was that our bird's bill was black to the base, possibly with a hint of lightness or yellow at the base. Robbins & Peterson both expect the yellow, although I later learned that Peterson's Eastern Guide and other references say the yellow is not always present.

Prior experience with this and similar species: Familiar with Northern and Wilsons; not with Red in this plumage.

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

NAME (print): Hugh E. Kingery & Urling C. Kingery

Mailing address: 869 Milwaukee Street, Denver 80206

Signature: Hugh E. Kingery Urling C. Kingery

Return to:
Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206