

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒A

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Red Phalarope | Phalaropus fulicarius  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 5 September 1981Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Non-breedingLocality: Prewitt Reservoir Elevation: Nearest town: Atwood County: WashingtonTime(s) observed: ~ 1000Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): About 10 minutesOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):  
Peter Gent

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
Sun shining on bird from behind observerOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 x 50 binoculars, 15-60x telescopeDistance, and how measured: minimum distance- estimated 30-40'If photographed, type of equipment and film: Who else photographed the bird? 

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

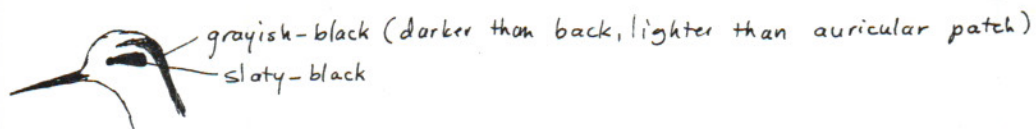
Observed swimming and feeding at a small isolated pond around the periphery of the reservoir. Several other species of shorebirds, include several Northern Phalaropes, were also at the pond. We advanced upon the birds slowly in stages, and thus got quite close as the birds were not especially shy. Also seen briefly in flight

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

Slightly larger and slightly chunkier in direct comparison with adjacent Northern Phalaropes. Black bill was fairly long and thin, and did not appear to be different from bills of the Northerns. Head white with a soty black auricular patch; rear crown, nape and back of neck blackish-gray (darker than back), with forward extension along side of crown (see sketch on reverse side). Back pale gray and unmarked except for 2 very pale white bars along each side of the back. Underparts white, unmarked. Strong white wing ~~patch~~ <sup>stripe</sup> in flight. Leg color not seen.

Description (continued):

Field sketch of head pattern:



Sketch not intended to  
illustrate size or shape  
of bill. (or head shape)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Plains irrigation reservoir

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The bill size and shape initially confused us. Later discussion revealed that there may be overlap in this characteristic between the Northern and Red, while only the Red has the pale gray back of this bird.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen many Northern Phalaropes (mostly in non-breeding plumage) in Colorado. I have seen 5-6 Red Phalaropes in Colorado and small numbers off the California coast, all in non-breeding plumage.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Standard references, conversation with Charlie Chase

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation \_\_\_\_\_ from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: 13 February 1982

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 3260 W. 14th Ave., #144, Denver, Colorado 80204

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205