

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☐

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

Species: Red Phalarope

(Vernacular Name)

Phalaropus fulicarius

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): Aug. 24, 1983Number of birds seen: oneSex: ?Plumage: between summer & winterLocality: Red Lion State Wildlife AreaElevation: ~4000'Nearest town: CrookCounty: LoganTime(s) observed: 1:00 - 1:15 p.m. and 1:45 - 2:15 p.m.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 45 min. total

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Mike Middleton

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):

Full sun always behind observersOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x50 binocs; 20x, 30x, 40x spotting scopeDistance, and how measured: 35 feet to 300 feet; estimatedPentax ME 70-150 Zoom w/ 2x Kodachrome 64If photographed, type of equipment and film: Ricoh, 400 mm Kodachrome 25

Who else photographed the bird? _____

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

The bird was swimming and feeding during most of observation. Feeding behavior was not typical phalarope "spinning", instead the bird would tip forward 45° to 60° with head submerged in water. The bird also preened & flew for short periods.

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:

Swimming: The bird was much smaller than Long billed Dowitchers & possibly smaller than Wilson's Phalarope. The bird had typical phalarope shape. General plumage characteristics was upper parts light grey & under parts white with scatter orangish-pink. Feathers. Head was white with black ear patch, back of head was grey which continued down back of neck to mantle. Top of head was white (no dark cap). Throat, neck, breast, sides, and flanks were white with scattered orangish-pink feathers. Sides of breast had a greater concentration of orangish-pink feathers and some grey feathers. The area around the vent had more orangish-pink feathers.

Description (continued):

^{whitish}

~~red~~ feathers than ~~white~~ feathers. The mantle was uniform light grey which continued to lower back & rump. Scapulars were grey edged with white (seen only at close range). Primaries were dark reddish-brown (almost black), contrasting with light grey back. There was also a dark area at bend of wing. The upper tail coverts also show a high concentration of orangish red feathers. The bill was short, thick, & blunt as compared to other phalaropes. The bill was black with a small amount of yellow at the base.

Flight: The lighter colored wing strips could be seen. There was no stripes on the back, it was uniform grey.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): None given.

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

General habitat: area of small ponds & marshes surrounded by grasslands.

Specific habitat: about one & half acre ^{shallow} pond with marsh on North end

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Wilson's Phalarope: black ~~cap~~ patch; short, blunt bill w/ yellow base; wing stripes in flight.

Northern Phalarope: bill, uniform lt. grey back, no dark cap, orangish feathers scattered throughout underparts.

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

I and Mike Middleton have seen one other Red Phalarope. Wilson's Phalarope, many seen same day. Northern Phalarope several seen each year.

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

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Birds of North America, A Field Guide to the Birds, East & West Audubon Guides, & Identifying & Aging Holarctic Waders.

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: Aug. 28, 1983, 8:30 p.m.

Reporting observer: Laurens R. Halsey Signature: Laurens R. Halsey

Address: 6422 Bluebird Ave. Longmont Colo. 80501

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