

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Red Phalarope | Phalaropus fulicaria
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: September 19, 1990Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: WinterLocality: inlet end of Prewitt Reservoir Elevation: 4090 ft.Nearest town: Merino County: WashingtonTime observed: 2 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 7 minutes

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

None

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

Bird was gone on 21 Sept.

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Afternoon Sun was to my side - Rather cloudy & windyOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 25X telescopeDistance, and how measured: 100 yards estIf photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? _____

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

Swimming in a small inlet with 8 Red-necked Phalaropes. Feeding.
Often would fly 10-20 feet and land again.

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:

The bird ^{was} smaller than a robin, larger than a sparrow. It was quite a bit larger than the Red-necked Phalaropes, but it had a short, stubby bill and no stripes on the back. The back ^{with neck} was pale blue-gray. The breast, throat and top of its head was white with a large black ear patch. When it flew the white in the wings was quite noticeable.

I saw no trace of the red breeding plumage.

Description (continued):

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

None that I could hear

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

In the upper (inlet) end of Prewitt Reservoir on the edge of a large mud flat with several "fingers" of water jutting into the mud flat.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

All of the phalaropes were feeding in these narrow shallow "fingers" of water. Many shore birds, gulls and White Pelicans were in the vicinity.

No other US birds swim around while feeding like phalaropes.

This was not a Wilson's Phalarope because it had a short stubby bill and an ear patch (Wilson's are all gone now). It was not a Red-necked Phalarope because the back was paler with no stripes; it was larger, and it had a shorter stubbier bill.

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

This is my second winter-plumaged Red Phalarope in Colorado.

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

a) at time of observation: National Geographic Birds of N.A.

b) after observation:

" Golden Guide Birds of N.A.

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory ☒ X
Date and time report was written: October 1, 1990 7:30 PM

Reporting observer: Dan Bridges Signature: J. A. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora, CO. 80014

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