

ACCEPTED

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 (Vernacular Name) Phalaropus fulicarius (Scientific Name)Date(s): Sept. 19, 1993Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Basic (winter)Locality: Blue Lake (Adobe Reservoir) Elevation: 4000' (1212 meters)Nearest town: Las Animas County: BentTime(s) observed: 0842-0907 ; 0950-1010 ; 1325-1335 DSTDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 55

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

Dave Johnson
1920 Greenwood
Pueblo, Co. 81003

(719) 545-5548

} afternoon sighting

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, shining over shoulder from behind; all sides illuminated.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Brushnell 10-30x50 mm scope; Swarovski 8x56 binoc.Distance, and how measured: 15 meters at closest site to a distance of 50 meters (est.)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): Swimming^{ind} and walking about at muddy edge of small pond, feeding on small insects floating on surface of water and on dead reed stems projecting above water. Bird was flushed 1x by Prairie Falcon and 1x by me with Dave Johnson. Typical jerky phalarope swimming motion. Swam alone most of the time.

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 observed in the field: Smaller than Killdeer, Red Knots and Dowitchers nearby. Appeared somewhat larger than Red-necked Phalarope and similar in size to Wilson's Phalarope, Sanderlings and Stilt Sandpipers nearby in same pond and mudflat. Had "phalarope" eye patch: black rectangular patch extending from eye through ear with slight downward slant. Bill dark and noticeably shorter and thicker than other 2 phalaropes. White forehead, cheek, cont.

Description (continued): White behind eye patch and white underparts. Upperparts and crown solid blue-gray (no stripes on back). Dark crown showing signs of fading. Faint red bluish on throat and upper breast. When flushed, bold white upper wing stripe visible. Prominent grayish smudge noted on sides of breast in front of shoulder, extension of mantle. Dark eye. Legs light gray and short. Tail dark gray. Wings darkening toward blackish primaries.

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: Large pond of water left behind by retreating Blue Lake, leaving extensive mud flats. 4 other ponds nearby. Area surrounded by pasture lands and grazing cattle. Dead, broken off reeds ^{growing} along some edges of ponds & sometimes extending into water.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? Red-necked Phalarope: Smaller in size, has whitish stripes on back. Bill longer and thinner. Wilson's Phalarope: lacks distinctive eye patch. Bill very long and thin; lacks white stripe on upper wing.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? 1st sighting of Red Phalarope. Have seen other 2 phalaropes in Colo. in 1991-1993. * all 3 species mentioned were swimming in same pond for at least 30 min. in the a.m., providing ample time for species comparison.

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

- a) at time of observation: "National Geo. Guide to Birds of N. Am." - provided specific field marks to observe.
b) after observation: "Shorebirds" by P. Hayman - Confirmed I.D.

This report was written from ^{notes/drawing} reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____

Date and time report was written: Oct 2, 1993

Reporting observer: KARLEEN SCHOFIELD Signature: Karleen Schofield

Address: 33 Yates St.

Denver, Co. 80219 (303) 936-8661

Return to:
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