

1997-34

ACCEPTED 7-0

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Red Phalarope

Number: 1 basic

Location: Duck L., Fort Collins, Larimer Co., CO

Habitat: shallow lake

Date: 20 September 1997

Time: 9:05-9:27 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 1/2 W. Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird: David C. Ely

Description of bird(s): We were scanning Duck Lake when I spotted a small flock of phalaropes swimming on the water. The group consisted on 12 birds, 11 of which were clearly Red-necked's. The other bird was noticeably larger and paler. I estimated the bird was 10-15% larger than a Red-necked Phalarope. The black bill had a tubular appearance (like the bill of a Sanderling), and was thicker and blunter than the bill of a Red-necked. Other features included a black eye spot, a light gray, unstreaked mantle, and a more prominent white wing stripe along the base of the flight feathers when the bird was in flight.

Similar species and how eliminated: The shape, general plumage, and behavior identified the bird as a phalarope. The dark eye spot and short bill eliminated Wilson's Phalarope. Red-necked Phalarope (under direct comparison) was eliminated on the basis of bill shape, unstreaked mantle, more prominent white wing stripe, and larger size.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were very good with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance was 300m. I used a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen thousands of Red and Red-necked Phalaropes on the Atlantic Ocean, plus many Red-necked's and a few Red's at inland locations.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none written

How long before this form completed: written 20 September 1997