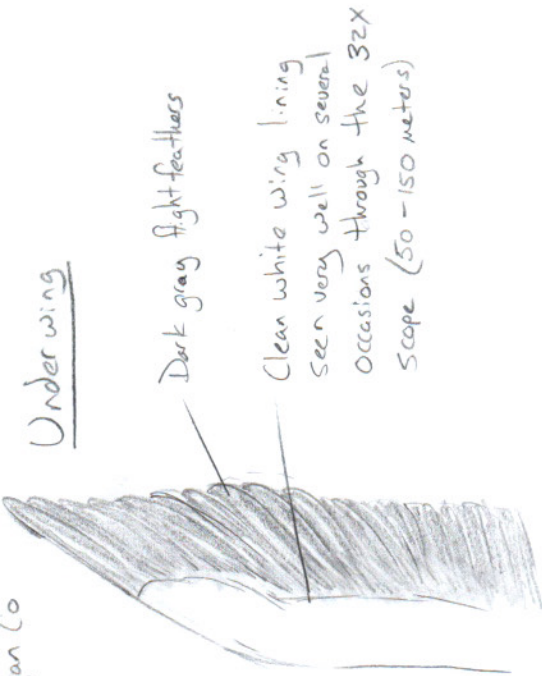


14 October 2001

Jackson Reservoir Morgan Co

Report Brian Gibbons

Under wing



Dark gray flight feathers

Clean white wing lining  
seen very well on several  
occasions through the 32x  
scope (50-150 meters)



smooth pale gray  
back, no streaking  
or scaling seen

Also seen by Bill + Jim  
Schroter 10-14-2001  
Nick Komer 10-16-2001

R-29 Oct 01

2001-94

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

R-28 Oct 01

**Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

2001-94

CFO-RC FILE X:			ACCEPTED
RESULTS:			
Species:(Common Name) <b>Red Phalarope</b>		(Scientific Name) Phalaropus fulicaria	
Date(s) of occurrence: 10/14/01			
Number of birds seen: 1	Sex: ?	Plumage: Adult Basic	
Exact location: South side shallow water, Jackson Reservoir (Viewed from South & Southwest Shore)			
County: Morgan	Nearest town: Goodrich	Elevation: ~4440 feet	
Length of observation: approx. 1 hour total over a 5 1/2 hour period.		Time(s) of observation: First seen about 10:30 am, Last Seen about 4:00 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time)	
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jim Schmoker, Brian Gibbons			
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): None known at time report.			
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Light conditions were excellent. From best vantage, light was at our back & the sun was shining. (As we viewed the bird from the S.W. side looking east in the early afternoon.			
Optical equipment used: Two Kowa 82mm scopes (one with fluorite glass optics) with 32X and 50X wide angle lenses.			
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Best range was about 200 yards.			
Was bird(s) photographed? no		If so, have you submitted photos?	
Who took the photographs?			
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Shallow water surrounded by extensive mudflats. The bird was in the midst of several thousand shorebirds and ducks and gulls. One other phalarope (Red-necked) was in the vicinity, but never associated with the Red Phalarope.			
Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was mainly exhibiting feeding behavior typical of a phalarope (rapid turning movements & gleaning the water surface.) Occasionally the bird preened or stuck its head up in an alert posture if nearby birds flushed or called in alarm. The bird was observed through both scopes flying short distances several times, giving good looks at tail, back, and most importantly, the underwing plumage.			
Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes): 1) At first observation, the bird was obviously a phalarope based on its size compared to nearby shorbirds, its body and bill shape, and its rapid circular feeding movements in shallow water. 2) The bird was in adult basic plumage with a strong dark thick line running from the eye back into the cheek, narrowing it down to Red-necked Phalarope or Red Phalarope. The bird was strictly white, black, and gray, with none of the warmer tones or other markings found on a juvenile. The white sides and predominantly white head made re-locating this bird fairly easy throughout the approximately 5 hours that we birded in the vicinity. 3) The cap was dark gray, but not black, and began well behind the top of the head. The cap narrowed to a thin almost black stripe down the back of the otherwise entirely white neck. The rest of the domed head was bright white, with the exception of the black eye and the dark eyeline mentioned above. 4) The mantle of the bird was pale gray without any mottling or other contrasting features. The pale gray darkened only at the tail and primary tips. A slight intrusion of white below the shoulder was the only feature visible in the mantle. 5) The bill was black and considerably more stout than the bill of a Red-necked Phalarope. We had observed a juvenile Red-necked Phalarope about 15 minutes before our best look at the Red Phalarope, and I am certain of the bill difference. The bill was straight but met the face at a more downward-pointing angle than the recently viewed Red-necked Phalarope, whose bill stuck straighter (but not straight) out of its face. 6) When the bird flew it presented great looks at the underwing plumage, which was bright, clean white that darkened only along the trailing edge of the wing. Brian Gibbons and I both observed this through our scopes a couple of times each with excellent light at our backs. The tops of the wings were gray growing darker towards the tips, and the tail was dark centered with almost white sides. Because we were able to see the dark trailing edge as we tracked the bird's flight through our scopes, we could also have seen dark leading edge features had they been there.			
Describe bird's call or song: Not heard.			

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Wilson's Phalarope lacks the eye spot and has a much thinner bill as well as a lot more gray on the neck. Red-necked Phalarope has a thinner bill that sticks straighter out of its face, a darker mantle with contrasting features within it, and clear dark markings on the leading edge of the underwing. The only thing lacking in our observation was a direct side-by side comparison of a Red Phalarope vs. Red-necked Phalarope to evaluate size differences.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? This is the first Red Phalarope I've seen. I have observed hundreds of Wilson's Phalaropes and a few dozen Red-necked Phalaropes this year.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): While viewing the bird and later at home I consulted The Sibley Guide To Birds and the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Additionally, while viewing the bird, Brian Gibbons, who has many lifetime observations of Red Phalaropes, was also consulted.

This report is from notes made during and after observation.

Date of written report: 10/15/01

Reporting observer: William P. Schmoker

Signature:

Reporting Observer's Address: 2227 Canyon Blvd. #106

City: Boulder

State: CO

Zip: 80302

Phone: 303/541-9372 email: bschmokr@bvsd.k12.co.us

**Send report to:**  
**Colorado Birds Record Committee**  
**Tony Leukering**  
**P.O. Box 157**  
**Arvada, CO 80001**