

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CFO-RC FILE X: 2002-86

Rec'd 2/11/03

RESULTS: A

Species (please include common and scientific name): Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*).

Date(s) of Observation: 10/12/02

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unk Plumage: Adult

Exact location: Vega Reservoir, near the Plateau Creek inlet.

Length of observation: ½ hour Time(s) of observation: 2:45-3:15 p.m.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Mike Henwood

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): none

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): excellent. Full sun directly behind observers

Optical equipment used: 8x42 Bausch & Lomb Elite Binoculars. Kowa TS822 scope

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 75-100 meters

Was bird(s) photographed? No Have you submitted photos? No

Who took the photographs? N/A

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Lake shore and shallow offshore water. Lake at approximately 7800 ft elev.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification): Fed in typical phalarope fashion, wading in belly deep water, swimming in slightly deeper water, walking along shoreline, picking food items from the surface of the water.

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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):

Head white with black eye patch enveloping the eye and extending about two eye-widths behind the eye. Forehead white. Grayish-black cap beginning at the top of the head and extending as a narrow stripe down the back of the neck, widening at the shoulders and blending into the gray back. Bill black and slender, but not needle-like. Length of the bill equal to or less than width of the head. Underparts clean white. Back and rump soft unstreaked gray. No back feathers with black centers. Primaries blackish with very narrow whitish edges. Legs muddy gray.

Describe birds call or song: none.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Red-necked Phalarope has thinner, needle-like bill and black streaking on back. Wilson's Phalarope has longer bill and yellow legs.

What is your prior experience with this and similar-appearing species?

Have seen this species once before in Mesa County. Have seen many winter plumaged Wilson's Phalaropes and a few winter-plumaged Red-necked phalaropes..

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

Consulted Peterson's western guide during the observation. Consulted National Geographic, Sibley, and Harrison's *Seabirds* after the observation, to confirm diagnostic field mark.

This report was made from notes made less than 30 minutes following the observation.

Date of written report:

10/12/2002

Reporting observers:

Rich Levad, Mike Henwood



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