

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT FORM

82-26A

Dupl.

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Red-necked Phalarope Phalaropus lobatus
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 3 in basic (non-breeding) plumage
3. Locality: Louisiana: Lafourche Parish: Fourchon Rd., LA 3090
4. Date(s) when seen: 12 September 1982
5. Times of day when seen: 9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. local time; duration: 20 min.
6. Reporting observer and address: B. Mac. Myers II  
730 Frenchmen St. New Orleans, LA 70116
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
Norton Nelkin
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): good light, from behind my right shoulder while I was facing birds
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x50 Bushnell binocs, 22x60 Bushnell scope, excellent condition
11. Distance to bird: 120-250 yards
12. Duration of observation: 20 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):  
very shallow pond or flooded mud flat; depth probably < 8 inches; water brackish to salty.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): sitting on water, swimming, feeding; flying.
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):  
The birds were with a loose flock of about 20 Wilson's Phalaropus. They were shorter in length and did not sit as tall as the Wilson's, their bulk was less than the Wilson's, their necks were not as long as Wilson's; overall, smaller than Wilson's. Their bills were very fine, straight, black, shorter than the Wilson's, with little or no apparent taper from base to tip. The underparts were whitish. The heads were whitish with partial dark cap.  The backs were gray with several lighter longitudinal lines. In flight, it appeared that there were also some brownish feathers in the back. In flight the birds (I only saw one bird in flight), the wings had each a prominent white wing stripe. The rump and tail feathers were unlike Wilson's.

The center of rump and tail and all of the top of the tail was dark; only the outer edges of the basal part of the tail were whitish. 

16. Voice: *silent*

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

*Wilson's*: eliminated by size, darker back w/ stripes, wing stripe, tail pattern, shorter bill, dark "cap".

*Red Phalarope*: eliminated by smaller size, more delicate head and neck, very fine, untapered black bill, darker mantle with stripes.

Also, I believe that the brownish ~~mantle~~ back feathers and dark cap so extensive are probably not present in *Red Phalaropes*.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

NO

19. Previous experience with this species: I am thoroughly familiar with *Wilson's Phalarope*. I have some west coast experience with both *Red* & *Red-necked*.

Also recent (summer 1981) experience with *Red-necked* and "unidentified" *Phalaropes* off N.E. US and Nova Scotia.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation; none

b) after observation: *Peterson, Robbins, guide to Ident. of Holarctic Waders, et.*

21. This description written from: X notes made during observation; \_\_\_\_\_ notes made after observation; \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? YES. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter: *Burford Mac. Myers III*

24. Date and time of writing this account:

8 December 1982

11:30 a.m.

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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REPORT FORM

82-26 B

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1. Common and scientific name: NORTHERN PHALAROPE - PHALAROPUS LOBATUS
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 4 IN WINTER PLUMAGE
3. Locality: Louisiana: LAFOURCHE Parish: LA. 3096 - "FOURCHON ROAD"
4. Date(s) when seen: 9/19/82
5. Times of day when seen: 07:30
6. Reporting observer and address: NANCY L. NEWFIELD, 3016 45<sup>TH</sup> ST. METAIRIE, LA. 70001
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: TRISTAN DAVIS
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): THE DAY WAS CLEAR. IT WAS A BRIGHT, MORNING SUN, DIRECTLY BEHIND US. THE BIRDS WERE IN OPEN WATER AND THE SUN SHINED ON THEM.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
BINOCULARS: 9 X 35 BAUSCH & LOMB (GOOD CONDITION); TELESCOPE: 15X-60X SWIFT (GOOD CONDITION)
11. Distance to bird: ABOUT 60 YDS.
12. Duration of observation: 10 MINUTES
13. Habitat (general and specific): MARSH; OPEN WATER (SHALLOW) ABOUT 30 YARDS FROM THE MARSH VEGETATION.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): FEEDING
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):  
5 1/2 - 6 INCHES, SLENDER, BILL - BLACK, VERY SLENDER, SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN HEAD, THE TOP OF THE HEAD, BACK OF THE NECK, BACK AND WINGS WERE CLEAR DARK GRAY. FACE, THROAT, CHEST - CLEAR WHITE EXCEPT FOR A HEAVY BLACK LINE THROUGH THE EYE

16. Voice: NOT HEARD

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - AT THE SAME LOCATION, THERE WERE 25 OF THESE PRESENT. THEY LARGER (BY 1 INCH); LONGER BILLED; LIGHTER GRAY ON CROWN, NAPE, DORSUM, WINGS; AND LACKED THE BLACK EYE LINE.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

NO

19. Previous experience with this species:

SEPTEMBER 1977 - SEVERAL SEEN IN STOCK PONDS AND SEWERAGE PONDS IN WEST TEXAS.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation; BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA - CHANDLER RIBBINS

b) after observation: LOUISIANA BIRDS - GEORGE LOWERY  
THE ROVERS, SANDPIPERS, AND SNIPES OF THE WORLD - PAULA A. JOHNSON

21. This description written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during observation;  notes made after observation; \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? YES. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter:

Nancy L. Newfield

24. Date and time of writing this account:

9-22-82 - 10:30 AM

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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82-26 C

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1. Common and scientific name: Northern Phalarope (Lobipes lobatus)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 4 in winter plumage
- 3. Locality: Louisiana: Grand Isle Lafourche Parish: Jefferson  
La Rt. 3090 - Fourchon Road
4. Date(s) when seen: Saturday, 18 September 1982
5. Times of day when seen: Off and on from about 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Tristan J. Davis  
P.O. Box 22506 Baton Rouge Louisiana 70893
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
Nancy Newfield
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:  
Nancy Newfield
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Clear skies; birds out in middle of marsh on open water.
- 10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Bushnell 10x50 wide angle sportview binoculars; also a Swift 15-60 X zoom scope. Both are in good condition.
- 11. Distance to bird: ~60 yards
12. Duration of observation: On and off for about 1 1/2- 2 hours (longest observation 20-30min.)
13. Habitat (general and specific):  
Coastal marsh; scattered reed clumps in shallow (1/2-1 ft.) water.
  
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Swimming on surface of water (unlike an other shorebird present exc. Wilson's Phalaropes); posture while swimming unlike any other swimmer present; tail pointed slightly above horizontal; bill held primarily downward.
  
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks): Length: 7-8 in. Longish neck; black, needle-like, pointed bill; eye dark; legs not seen; clean white below incl. neck and throat; sides of head white with rather small, but noticable black patch behind eye, looking as if it barely "merged" with the dark eye; back and wings a dark blackish-gray intermixed with a little white so that the back and wings were not quite a solid blackish-gray; white forehead; black on the top of the head extending to the back.

16. Voice: None heard.

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations): These birds were in the company of some Wilson's Phalaropes. These were easily told apart as Wilson's have a much lighter back and wings (gray-light gray) with no white markings on the back; also by Wilson's lack of the black "ear patch!"

The Red Phalarope was eliminated as a possibility as they have a much lighter back without any white markings; also by the very thin all black bill of the Northern Phalarope <sup>on the</sup> back.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):  
No photographs taken.

19. Previous experience with this species: I have no previous experience with this species but my birding companion was quite familiar with the species. However, before encountering the species, I had gone over many times with various sources the means to identify the species should I one day be presented with the opportunity.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification  
a) at time of observation; Nancy Newfield, R.T.P.'s Field Guide to the Birds, Robbin's A Field Guide to North American Birds  
b) after observation: same as in 20 a)

21. This description written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during observation; X notes made after observation; \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter: *Victoria J. Davis*

24. Date and time of writing this account: 20 September 1982 ; 4:55 p.m.