

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

86-20

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

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: **NORTHERN PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): **One first winter. (coll. by SWC) SPECIMEN LSUMZ.#126654**
3. Locality: Louisiana: **Cameron** Parish: **Hackberry Ridge,**
2 mi. WSW Johnsons Bayou School
4. Date(s) when seen: **22 December 1985 (Johnsons Bayou Christmas Count)**
5. Times of day when seen: **about 10:00 AM**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Donna L. Dittmann**
1755 College Dr. #213, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: **Steven W. Cardiff**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
good.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Leitz 8 X 40 Trinovid binoculars, 20X Balscope Sr. Spotting scope
11. Distance to bird: **about 50 ft.**
12. Duration of observation: **5-10 minutes**
13. Habitat (general and specific):
The phalarope was feeding in a mixed shorebird flock on the edge of a ^{large, shallow} pond (adjacent to the saltmarsh).
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
The bird was observed feeding in the typical phalarope "spinning" method in shallow water at the edge of the pond. It also picked at the surface of the water as it walked across shallower sections of the pond, and eventually went to sleep on a small clump of grass.
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):
Phalarope. Identified as a Northern by: dark grey rump, straight delicate all black bill, white stripe in greater upper wing coverts. Identified as 1st-winter plumage by: dark cap, some juv. scapulars and tertials retained.

16. Voice:

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

Red Phalarope is larger, paler, with a differently shaped bill.

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

None.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen Northern Phalaropes on countless occasions in California, where the bird is a common migrant, as well as Wilson's and Red.

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

a) at time of observation;

None.

b) after observation:

Identification and Ageing of Holarctic Waders to confirm age ID.

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation; _____ notes made after observation; **X** memory, **X** specimen.

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

23. Signature of reporter: *Donna L. Dittmann*

24. Date and time of writing this account:

Steven W. Cardiff

Donna L. Dittmann 28 January 1986