

## Louisiana Bird Records Committee

### Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)
2. Number of Individuals, sexes, ages, gen. plumage: one adult female; nearly complete alternate plumage (fresh).
3. Locality: LOUISIANA, Cameron parish, impoundment within spoil/fill operation, ca. 1 mi east of Sabine Pass, and 2 mi north of LA 82.
4. Date(s) when observed: 10 May 2001
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:55AM-12:35PM
6. Reporting Observer and Address: William R. Fontenot, 217 St. Fidelis St., Carencro, LA
7. Other Observers who also identified: Dave Patton
8. Other Observers who independently identified: Gary Broussard
9. Light Conditions: Bright sun, almost directly overhead
10. Optical Equipment: Leica 10X50 binocular; Nikon Fieldscope ED 30X; both good condition
11. Distance to Bird: 65-250'
12. Duration of Observation: ca. 40 minutes
13. Habitat: Extensive, shallow impoundment w/small channel; occasional clumps of vegetation
14. Behavior of Bird/circumstances of observation: Bird was mostly swimming/foraging in small channel; also sat in 1/2" water and preened for several minutes. "Herky-jerky" foraging/swimming motions.
15. Description: Please refer to attached sheet.
16. Voice: N/A

17. Similar species: Wilson's Phalarope at least 1.5-2" larger (total length and wingspan; fortunately we had one occasion to simultaneously view both subject bird and a Wilson's Phalarope 4' apart). Red Phalarope in alternate plumage would exhibit near totally rufous-red underparts.

18. Photos/audio/video: Yes, Patton and I alternated on his video camera.

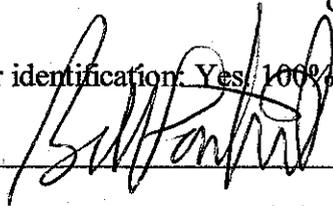
19. Previous experience: None, anywhere.

20. Identification aids: National Geographic Bird Fieldguide

21. The accompanying description was written from: notes taken within 15 minutes of the observation; enclosed.

22. Are you positive of your identification: Yes, 100%

23. Signature of reporter:



24 May 2007  
Date

13:50 hrs  
Time

**Notes on the Observation of a Red-necked Phalarope  
Cameron Parish, Louisiana; 10 May 2001**

**William R. Fontenot  
Curator of Natural Science  
Acadiana Park Nature Station  
Lafayette, LA 70501**

On the morning of 10 May 2001, Dave Patton and I drove to western Cameron parish in response to an earlier/unsubstantiated report regarding the presence of a Red-necked Phalarope in an impoundment associated with a dredge/fill area just east of Sabine Pass. We arrived at late morning. The weather conditions were bright, nearly cloudless skies, ca. 80F, and a 15mph SSE wind.

We found it necessary to hike down the Sabine Lighthouse Road, since the gate was locked. We reached the shallow impoundment area around 11:50; and 5 minutes later, had located a phalarope which was definitely not a Wilson's Phalarope. Since neither of us had ever seen/studied a Red-necked Phalarope, we immediately teamed up: one of us filming the bird with a binocular-aided video camera, the other studying the bird through binoculars, and calling out field marks as they were manifested.

As luck would have it, the bird sat alone, foraging in the current of a small channel ca. 85' from us. We saw a phalarope (a shorebird with a straight, thin, dark bill; swimming duck-like in the water) with a charcoal-colored crown, nape, back, and sides, and blackish lores, chin, face, and post-ocular area. A prominent white dot was noted in the region of the anterior superciliary. Both the throat and ventral neck were white. The flanks were white/charcoal mottled. Another fairly prominent white area involved a spot of white (surrounded by charcoal-gray of the sides and back) at the shoulder area.

Color-wise, the most prominent areas on the bird were 1) a wide rufous stripe which originated around the area between the post-ocular and the nape, and ran posteriorly along the sides of the neck, and terminating at the upper breast and sides of the upper breast, and 2) a pair of golden/bronzy "braces" which ran along either side of the mantle and scapulars. These contrasted brightly against the remaining duller charcoal-gray plumage of the back.

On one occasion the bird took flight, at which point I noted (through binoculars) a prominent single white wingbar extending throughout the length of the wing, from the primaries through the secondaries, as well as a blackish stripe running from the bird's rump posteriorly through the

center of the white tail. The wings (primaries and secondaries) appeared quite dark.

The bird alit in shallow, still water about 250' to our north; and - wonder of wonders - about 4' east of a lone Wilson's Phalarope, the only other phalarope at the site. This allowed us to study the bird through a 30X spotting scope, and to directly compare it with the adjacent Wilson's Phalarope. The Wilson's was notably larger, and with a notably/relatively longer, thin, straight, blackish bill. We also noted that among other things, the Wilson's lacked 1) any rust coloration on the dorsal sides of its neck, 2) charcoal/white mottled sides, and 3) golden-bronzy "braces" on its back.

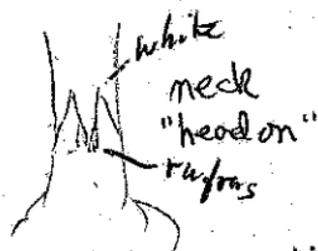
After several minutes, the bird again flew back into the small channel, less than 100' feet of us; and again, we took turns filming and studying it. In all, we spent about 40 minutes working with this bird. Both of us are certain that this was indeed a female Red-necked Phalarope in near complete alternate plumage.

Written 14 May 2001 by Bill Fontenot, Lafayette Natural History Museum, Lafayette, LA

III: 55-12:35 10 MAY 2001 Red-necked Phalarope  
Bright sun  
SSE 15 Sabine hightouse Road Breeding ♀

Neck w/ bright chestnut/rust dorsally, ventrally,  
& on sides of neck. Crown charcoal, ept,  
down thru nape & upper back. Back w/  
4 bright buff "braces" (2 on either side  
of midline of back). Black, thin bill,  
notably shorter than on adjacent WiPh.  
Subject bird notably smaller than  
adjacent WiPh.

Small circular white dot in  
anterior superciliary area



(just above lore). Blackish face. Black chin; white  
throat. Charcoal primaries; flanks mottled gray/white

Swimming, foraging, preening

Silent

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Report Form

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1. English and Scientific names: Red-necked Phalarope  
Phalaropus lobatus
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 female in alternate plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Cameron  
(parish)  
impoundment north of the lighthouse  
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 5-9-01
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:55 p. til 4:20 p.
6. Reporting observer and address: Roger J. Brachler  
152 Alice Dr.  
Pineville, LA 71360
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Charlie Lyon
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
I was told this bird was found on 5-7-01  
by Joe Kleiman of Baton Rouge.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bird was 50-70 ft. away w/ sun quartering  
from our left and behind us.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Kowa 77 20X - 40X  
Leica Ultra 8x42
11. Distance to bird(s): ~ 60 ft.
12. Duration of observation: 20 min.
13. Habitat: shallow water near a mud flat

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Swimming & feeding in shallow water -  
mere inches from shore

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possibly: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):

Stubby shorebird. Long thin bill about length of head. Blackish on head & face. White-throat. Dark gray on nape. Red on sides of throat (lower throat (neck) in front). Orange stripes on gray mantle. white below and around eye. Bird was slightly smaller than nearby Dunlin.

16. Voice: *N/A*

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Wilson's is longer - less red on front of throat, lighter on nape & tail. Red has stubbier bill, red all over below and white on throat.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Digital tape & stills by Mark Swan on 5-8-01 and by Charles Lydon on 5-9-01 they will submit

19. Previous experience with this species:

Seen only twice ('94) previously

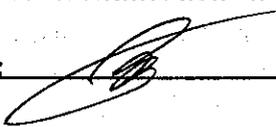
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: *N.G.*

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_ notes attached?); \_\_\_ notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_);  memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: *yes*

23. Signature of reporter: 

*5-17-01 10:30 a.m.*  
(date) (time)

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Rare Bird Report Form

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1. English and Scientific names: RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus lobatus*
2. Number of individuals, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): 1 ADULT ♀
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: CAMERON  
(parish)  
PONDS IN FILL AREA NEXT TO ROAD TO CAMERON LIGHTHOUSE  
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 7 MAY 2001
5. Time(s) of day when observed: EARLY AFTERNOON
6. Reporting observer and address: JOSEPH P. KLEIMAN  
15913 MALVERN HILL  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70817
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
JASON WECKSTEIN, STAN ZAMEK
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
MARK SWAN GOT EXCELLENT VIDEO OF BIRD. MANY OTHERS HAVE SEEN SINCE
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): WE FOUND IT  
GOOD LIGHT
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): ZEISS 10X40 GOOD, LEICA TELEVID SCOPE 30X, EXCELLENT
11. Distance to bird(s): 30-40 YARDS
12. Duration of observation: ~ 20 MINUTES

13. Habitat: PARTIALLY VEGETATED MUD FLAT
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation):  
BIRD FEEDING, RESTING
15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species. Attach additional pages as necessary):  
RED NECK, WHITE THROAT - DARK BACK WITH BUFFY STRIPES FORMING A V  
DARK GRAY CAP, BLACKER THROUGH EYE THAN CAP  
THIN, BLACK BILL, SHORTER THAN BILL OF WILSON'S PHALAROPE  
PHALAROPE FEEDING BEHAVIOR  
BIRD SMALLER THAN NEARBY WILSON'S PHALAROPES  
RED ON NECK EXTENDS UP SIDE OF NECK TO CAP, JOINS AT BACK OF NECK AT BASE  
WHITE UNDERPARTS
16. Voice: NOT HEARD
17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?):  
SIZE & PLUMAGE ELIMINATE WILSON'S PHALAROPE, PLUMAGE ELIMINATES RED PHALAROPE
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):  
JASON GOT SOME PHOTOS, OTHERS HAVE SINCE GOTTEN GOOD (EXCELLENT) VIDEOS
19. Previous experience with this species: MARK  
NOT MUCH IN THIS PLUMAGE, LOTS WITH WINTER PLUMAGED BIRDS
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
a. at time of observation:  
NAT. GEOGRAPHIC  
b. after observation:
21. This description is written from:  notes made during the observation;  notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_\_\_);  memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain)? YES
23. Signature of reporter: Joseph P. Korman 5/14/01  
(date)

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

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1. English and Scientific names: Red-necked Phalarope (Lobipes lobatus)
2. Number of individuals, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): 1 adult ♀
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Cameron  
(parish)  
Rd to Sabine River lighthouse, ca 1/2 mile east of Sabine pass  
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 7 May 2001
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Mid Afternoon - 1:00 or 2:00pm?
6. Reporting observer and address: Jason D. Weckstein  
Museum of Natural Science  
119 Foster Hall, LSU  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70808
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s): Joseph Kleiman & Stanton Zameh
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Mark Swan (Mark also got digital video of the bird)  
and others
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): The bird was in good light... the sun was behind us while we observed the bird, so it was front lit.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x40 BGT, Bushnell Spacemaster  
Also Joes Leica Televid Scope.
11. Distance to bird: 75 yards initially.
12. Duration of observation: 20 minutes +

13. Habitat: Shallow mudflat
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation): Feeding in the company of about 80 Wilson's Phalaropes. The Red-necked did its typical spinning behavior.
15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species. Attach additional pages as necessary):  
 Dark slaty cap with dark ear coverts, slaty back with buffy scapular stripes, white upper throat, rusty red sides of neck and lower throat. Slaty coloration extended from cap down to back, smaller than nearby Wilsons with shorter and more pointed bill, dark center to rump in flight.

16. Voice: not heard.

17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?): Wilson's & Red Phalarope. Red has completely diff plumage coloration and mantle pattern (no buffy scapular stripes) Wilsons has longer bill, more extensive rusty red on fore neck, and has a white rump diff. pattern (no buffy stripes)

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?) Took a few photos (distant) Mark Swan made digital video of the bird.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen this species in Michigan, Ontario, California, and N. Dakota.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

- a. at time of observation: NBS and Sibley Field Guides.
- b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_ notes made during the observation;  notes made after the observation (date: 2 May 2001); \_\_\_ memory.

↳ notes made once I returned home, Joe Kleiman has notes that we took while observing the bird.

22. Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain)?

23. Signature of reporter: J. Kleiman 29 May 2001 (date)

**Red-necked Phalarope (female in breeding plumage)**

Feeding along Sabine lighthouse road in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.  
Discovered 7 May 2001 by Jason Weckstein with Joe Kleiman.  
Originally with 75+ Wilson's Phalaropes, which dwindled to none.  
Last reported seen 12 May 2001 by Judy Fruge, who offers this:  
"Thanks to the Crain family, Butch and Hilda Crain especially, who own much of the land and the road giving access to the lighthouse."  
Videotaped 8 May by Mark Swan.







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1. English and Scientific names: Red-necked Phalarope  
Phalaropus lobatus
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 alternate plumage female
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) Cameron Parish  
Specific Locality: Light House Road,
4. Date(s) when observed: 5/10/01
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:30 to 12:30
6. Reporting observer and address: Dave Patton, 122 Memory Lane, Lafayette, LA 70506
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *Identified* the bird(s): Bill Fontenot
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Joe Kleiman and others on 5/8/01.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
Good light, direct sun behind our right shoulders
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
30X scope
11. Distance to bird(s):  
60 feet
12. Duration of observation:  
about 30 minutes
13. Habitat:  
mud flat and shallow chanel
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):  
Actively feeding along the far bank of the channel. Constantly moving in water about chest deep. Often reversing and doubling back in short back tracking fashion. Snapping at objects on the surface.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):

Once flew out to sit next to Wilson's Phalarope and allowed comparison of size. RNPH was about 3/4<sup>th</sup> the size. Crown was dark with a gray median stripe that narrowed and came down the center of the nape, then expanded on the mantle, and narrowed again between the folded wings. The face was dark with a white dot above the eye. A dark rusty red stripe began behind the eye and came down the side of the neck and expanded across the upper breast. The upper throat was white above the red. There was some flecking of white in the red of the upper breast. The lower breast and belly was white below the red. There was dark flecking along the sides of the breast below the folded wing. There were 4 tan stripes on the back with grey, black, and white spotting around the stripes on the folded wings. Legs were dark, and the bill was straight, thin, pointed and slightly shorter than the WIPH. Folded primary tips looked black, and the folded tail seemed to have a white outer edge.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

WIPH – extent of red, facial pattern, and smaller size

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Video taped for 13 minutes. Stills attached from video. by Dave Patton

19. Previous experience with this species:

None

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

none

b. after observation:

National Geographic

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_ notes attached?);  notes made after the observation (date: 5/10/01); \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: Dave Patton Date: 5/12/01 Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Red-necked Phalarope    Cameron Parish    May 10, 2001**

Stills from video shot by Dave Patton

