

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Red-necked Phalarope (*P. lobatus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 (probably HY due to degree of streaking on back?)
3. Parish: [Livingston](#)
Specific Locality: [Denham Springs WTP](#)
4. Date(s) when observed: [8 and 9 October 2014](#)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: [mid-morning](#)
6. Reporting observer and address: [J. V. Remsen, LSU Museum of Natural Science](#)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [Matt Brady \(on 9 Oct.\)](#)
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [good both times](#)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [20-40X scope, 10x40 binos](#)
11. Distance to bird(s): [On 8 Oct., never closer than 300 yds \(measured Google Earth\), as reflected in poor images. On 9 Oct., bird was much closer to shore, ca. 75 yds \(much better photos by Matt Brady\)](#)
12. Duration of observation: [ca. 30 mins both days](#)

13. Habitat: [wastewater treatment pond, 360 X 505 yds \(Google Earth\)](#)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): [On both days, the bird was swimming on open water with jerky, typical erratic, head-bobbing phalarope motion.](#)

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): [By general shape and behavior, an obvious basic-plumaged phalarope with a thin, all black bill and a prominent black area on face and on down back of neck. The back was fairly dark, not light gray, but still paler than face markings. The back was not uniform -- appeared to have markings on it that were too far to describe on first day. On the second day, the bird was much closer, and the black area on face could be discerned as an arching postocular stripe, fairly well defined, and the back was clearly striped. The blackish cap extended narrowly down the hindneck. The bill was very thin, all black.](#)

16. Voice: [not heard \(too far\)](#)

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): [Even at a distance on the first day, I could see that its bill was all blackish without any pale at base and needle-like, thus eliminating Red Phalarope. It had a prominent black area on face, thus eliminating Wilson's. Its back was fairly dark and not uniformly colored, thus also eliminating Wilson's and adult Red.](#)

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): [My terrible photographs from 300+ yards on first day are attached. These have been heavily cropped, and the focus on my camera is defective. Despite the awful quality, one can see that the bird is a phalarope with an apparently all-dark bill, a blackish facial area, and a back that is not uniformly colored and is too dark to be Red or Wilson's. Because the photos were so bad, I returned the next day to get better photos, with Matt Brady \(better camera!\) Fortunately, the bird was much closer, and Matt will submit his photos separately - -you can see them at: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20178888>. On these, one can see all the diagnostic features for the species \(black postocular stripe, black cap, dark back with pale stripes.](#)

19. Previous experience with this species: [Only once previously in LA and very little elsewhere in the most recent decade, but previously seen perhaps a hundred times, many thousands of individuals.](#)

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

a. at time of observation: **None**

b. after observation: **briefly looked at photos and field guide illustrations**

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: **29 Dec. 2014**

Time: **21:30 (Auburn vs. Alabama)**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? **Yes**

If yes, may we include your name with the report? **Yes**