

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
Final tally was 59 individuals, all in basic plumage
3. Parish: Plaquemines Parish
Specific Locality:
4. Date(s) when observed: 2 September 2017

5. Time(s) of day when observed: Beginning around 9:40, I believe, and extending through the day until about 2 p.m. at various sites.

6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): many; pelagic trip

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 sunlight, often behind us

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s and Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens

11. Distance to bird(s): Probably down to about 20 yards

12. Duration of observation: Total time spent observing probably between 30-60 min; we could have spent unlimited time had we not been on a time budget.

13. Habitat: Blue water/green water interface, with a thick sargassum line separating the different waters. A few phalaropes were first seen flying in a straight line as if migrating, but were soon seen settled and feeding on the grass line and in the blue water.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Seen in small groups of 2-3 as well as larger groups in the teens. Birds seen in flight and on the water. Birds on the water actively feeding, leapfrogging one another. The boat was able to approach birds on the water closely, allowing for good photos and observations.

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*):

Pale shorebirds with long dark eyepatches, somewhat plain to somewhat mottled pale gray mantles, long thin dark bills, and darker (medium gray) flight feathers.

Underparts white, with some gray on flanks.

Upperparts showed a lot of variation in pattern. Some birds seemed so pale that we had to scrutinize the photos to eliminate Red (it was sometimes hard to see bill length on the waves). Others had mottled or striped backs due to combination and arrangement of gray or dusky-based feathers with paler edgings. or darker interior markings on scapulars, etc.

The open wing of the birds showed a dark wing with a whitish wingstripe formed by white secondary bases and whitish primary shafts or shaft streaks contrasting with dark gray coverts and dark gray flight feathers.

Dark stripe down middle of white rump, tail medium gray with slightly duskier markings near tips, central rects perhaps darker.

Head with white ground color, a grayish-to-dusky patch on the crown extending narrowly down the hindneck to join the mantle, a blackish eye patch approximating the extent of the auriculars but extending slightly in front of the eye and drooping down slightly down the side of the neck in the rear. Eye dark, bill dark, thinning toward tips. Bill lengths varied per bird; in some case the bill length was a major fraction of the length of the bird's head, whereas in others it was shorter but still tapered distally.

Legs dark.

16. Voice: Very vocal at times, or perhaps easier to hear at times (as when boat was idling). Squeaky voice,

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Although other shorebirds can swim and may perhaps settle down on the seas in migration, these birds were clearly phalaropes. The "phalarope" mark on the faces narrows ID down to Red and Red-necked. Mantle pattern (on better marked birds) and longer, tapering bills eliminate Red.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by many observers including me. My photos attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Not much. Many in flight in Bay of Fundy, but

few good looks on the sea.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: Photos.

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? If not, explain: Yes. I would have liked to find a Red mixed in, but I'm satisfied that all were Red-necked.

23. Date: 9/24/2017













