

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

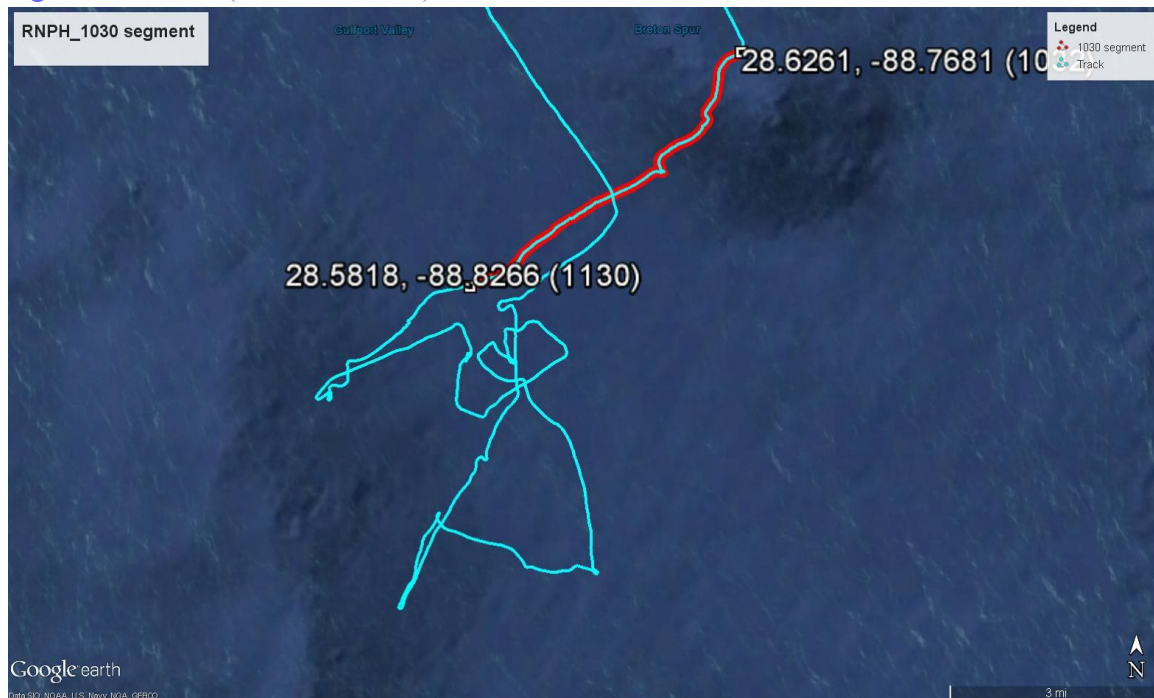
## REPORT FORM

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
Total of ca. 35, incl. flocks of 7, ca. 15, and ca. 15 (flocks generally flushed and headed NE along sargassum line, as the boat headed SW (map/track below); we felt these were different flocks, rather than the same flock(s) doubling back to get in front of boat again). Several adults in winter plumage (or nearly so), but most birds of unknown age in various stages of prebasic molt.

3. Locality: Parish: Gulf of Mexico (nearest parish = Plaquemines)  
Specific Locality: ca. 34 mi SE of Miss. River South Pass jetty, along 1030 CDT segment of track (outlined in red):



4. Date(s) when observed: 2 September 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Three flocks observed at 1037-1045, 1109-1111 (and 1116), and 1124-1129 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Paul Conover, John Dillon, Danny Dobbs, Marty Guidry, Erik Johnson, Hal Mitchell, David Muth, Larry Raymond, Van Remsen (these are simply the people I recall nearby), et al.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sunny, clear sky. Birds observed at various angles in relation to sun, both good and bad.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition)
11. Distance to bird(s): Not noted in the field, but probably as close as 30-50 m based on photos
12. Duration of observation: At least 16 min of obs time, based on photo timestamps
13. Habitat: sargassum line, blue water
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Generally resting on the water and foraging in/along the sargassum line, occasionally flushing ahead of the boat, then landing and resuming activity on the water.
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): Small shorebirds (about Sanderling size) w/ med-long, thin black bills. Head mostly white with conspicuous black postocular patch; gray rear-crown, often extending back/down hindneck and onto upperparts generally. Some degree of gray-white streaking on mantle, scapulars, and upper wing coverts, with contrast of streaking highly variable among individuals. Underparts generally white. Plumage varied among individuals--some were adults in winter plumage (or nearly so) showing very pale gray crown, nape, mantle, scapulars, upper wing coverts, etc. Other birds were in various stages of molt, some having much darker gray to blackish tones in

the upperparts, and thus more contrasty streaking. In flight, white wing-stripes contrasted with otherwise dark upper wings; dark markings on underwing coverts were clearly seen/photographed on several birds.

16. Voice: Birds in at least one group gave frequent harsh “kip” calls, sometimes stuttered into multiple syllables (similar to vocalizations played back on commercially available mobile phone apps by several folks on the boat, although also similar in quality to Red Phalarope calls).

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Red Phalarope may be eliminated based on needle-like bill structure, lack of pale at base of bill, light-dark streaking on upperparts, and dark markings on underwing coverts. Not all of those features were seen on all of birds in the field, but some combination of those characters are apparent on all birds that were photographed well enough to make out details. In the field we scrutinized and photographed several birds that appeared particularly pale or seemed to show more blunt-tipped bills, but found were unable to identify any birds as Red Phalaropes.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by Robert C. Dobbs, attached

19. Previous experience with this species: Much experience with Red-necked Phalarope in the western U.S., but very little with Red.

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: Hayman et al. (1986) Shorebirds: an identification guide

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

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

23. Date: 26 Sep 2017 Time: 1900 CDT

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





Flock of 7 (2 cropped out); timestamp 1042



Flock of 7; timestamp 1041





Flock of 7; timestamp 1045



Flock of 7; timestamp 1041



Flock of 7; timestamp 1041



Flock of 7; timestamp 1043





First flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1109



First flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1110





First flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1110



First flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1110





First flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1116



First flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1116



Second flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1124



Second flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1125





Second flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1125



Second flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1126



Second flock of ca. 15; timestamp 1127