

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 *Phalaropus lobatus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 juvenile/immature
3. Parish: Pointe Coupee
Specific Locality: Morganza Forebay
4. Date(s) when observed: 09/02/2021
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:30AM
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Esmé Rosen
City: Baton Rouge
State: Louisiana
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
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): Clear day, good lighting, slightly side lit but sun primarily on the bird
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex Diamonback Spotting Scope 45x-60x power
11. Distance to bird(s): difficult to judge but quite far
12. Duration of observation: 10 minutes

13. Habitat: mudflats with nearby shallow water, a drying bay

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Mostly sitting on mud, walked some and flew briefly once about 3 feet before landing

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*): Small shorebird with fairly short black bill (slightly shorter than the width of the head), short legs for a shorebird. Plump body with relatively thinner neck, though appeared more compact with shorter, squatter neck than Wilson's usually does. Dark brownish black upper parts and back of neck with an apparent golden stripe down the back. White below on the belly and lower part of neck up to the face, but with a black spot behind and slightly below the eye and a black cap, as is characteristic of this species. During most of the observation, the bird was sitting, occasionally standing up to preen a little or walk around. It flew a short distance once, when I clearly saw bright white wing markings contrasting with black upper wings. The wing patches are more vertical than say, a willet, and in my view this field mark alone (not even to mention the structure and coloration) is enough to eliminate Wilson's.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): non-phalarope shorebirds – combination of structure and bold black and white plumage with ear patch eliminate any small non-phalarope shorebirds. Wilson's Phalarope eliminated by stripes on the wings when in flight, black ear patch and very dark back and cap. Juvenile Red Phalarope eliminated by the sharply pointed bill, which is more blunt on Red. I am very familiar with Red-necked Phalarope and would have immediately noticed if the bill shape was wrong. My general impression of the structure was that it was spot on for a Red-necked in the field, and I have lots of experience with identifying the species (even sometimes silhouettes), see below.

In addition, Red starts its molt early and thus at this date it is extremely unlikely to see a fresh juvenile that has not at least started molting on its back, while Red-necked commonly retains this plumage even into October. There was no grey at all on the back of this bird or any other signs of molt; for example, the black ear path was still large and long, unlike many Reds which in molt appear to have a more indistinct ear patch. The body was slender as opposed to the chunkier Red.

A perhaps anecdotal observation of my own is that almost all Reds in fresh juvenile plumage have some orange or brown on the front and side of the lower neck, which progressively disappears as they molt, while Red-necked can be very fresh and be clean white on side of the lower neck. This bird was white; I should note in one picture the body almost looks yellow – this is a product of my phone camera being very poor mixed

with some chromatic aberration from the scope. Even when the bird moved in the scope, it was apparent that the underparts and side/bottom of neck were clean white.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): yes but unfortunately very poor due to the combination of my cheap phone and my cheap scope. I think the photos fairly definitely establish it is a Red/Red-necked Phalarope, but since they are all too out of focus to see the bill well, are only suggestive that it is not a Red. I have attached them for your viewing displeasure.

19. Previous experience with this species: Many years of experience with Red-necked and Wilson’s Phalaropes, I saw my first Red-necked in 2009 and have probably seen thousands since, primarily in their spring and fall migration through Nevada and California. I’ve seen fewer Reds, but have seen them sitting at close range before, so I’ve had the opportunity to see their structure up close and compare it to Red-necked.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: National Geographic Guide and a Bird Guides article, primarily for sorting out the differences in plumage from Red

21. This description is written from:

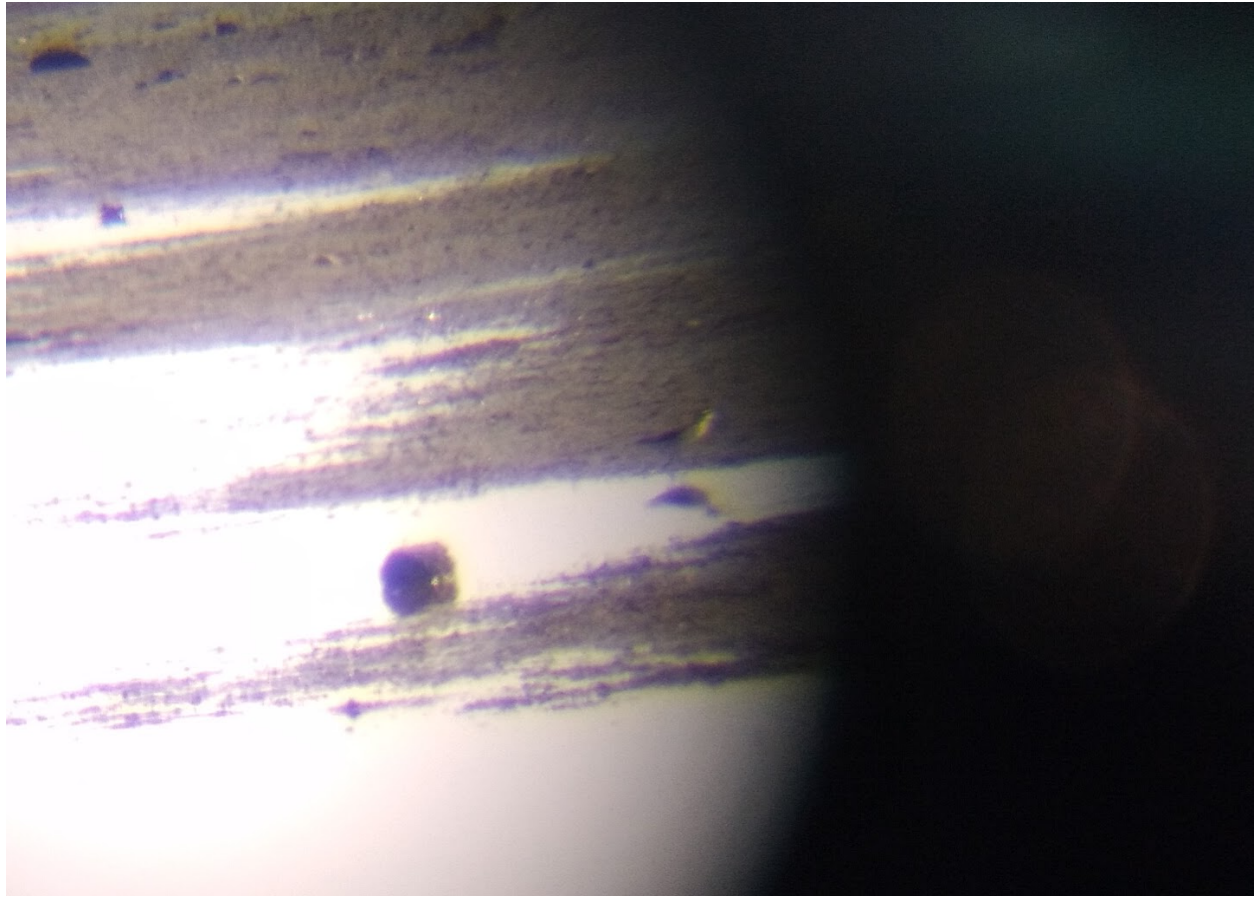
x	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	I typed my description in eBird mobile – sorry. I’ve included a poor sketch I did from memory when I got home
x	notes made after the observation. At what date?	9/3, for the similar species section only, revised for clarity 3/16 (no changes to content)
	memory	
	study of images	

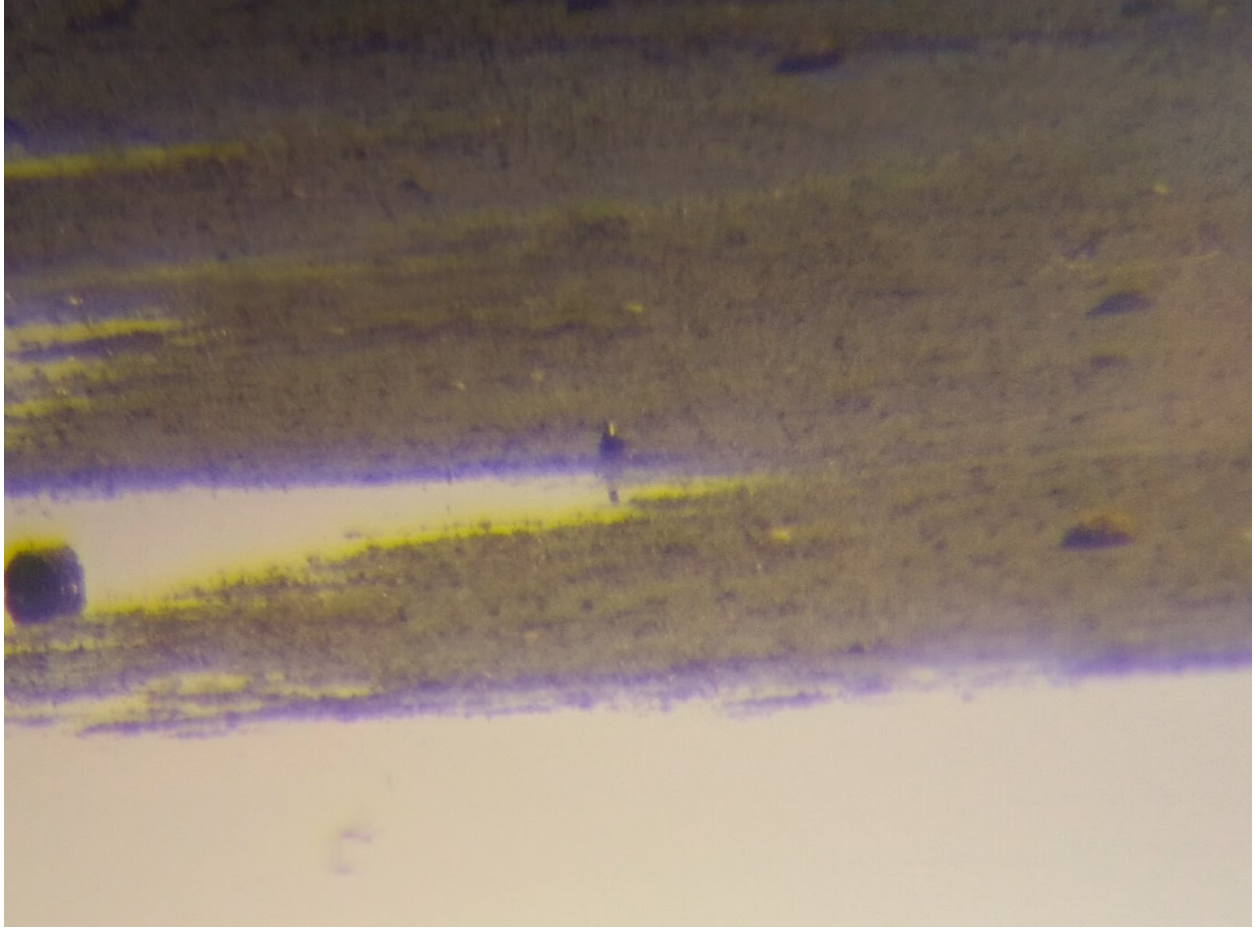
22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: yes

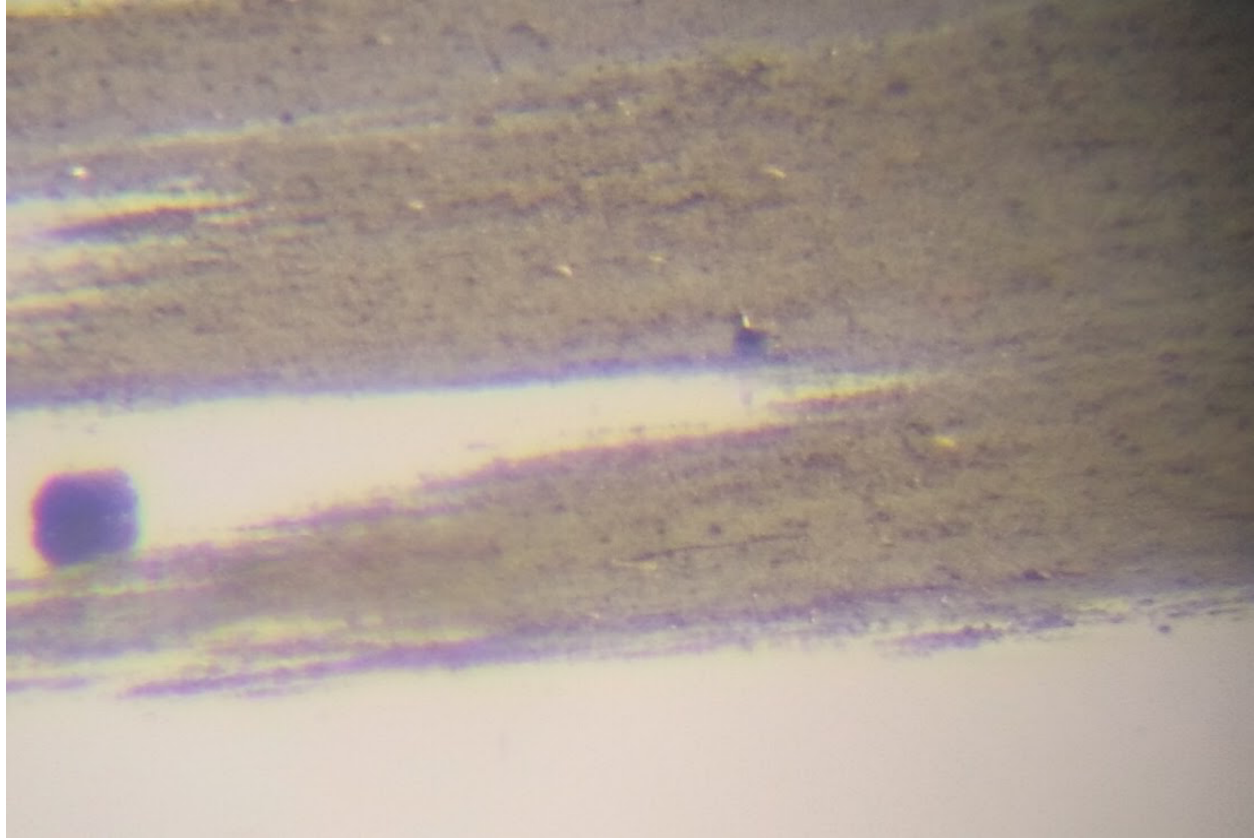
23. Date: 3/16/2022
Time: 7:42PM

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? _I guess_____

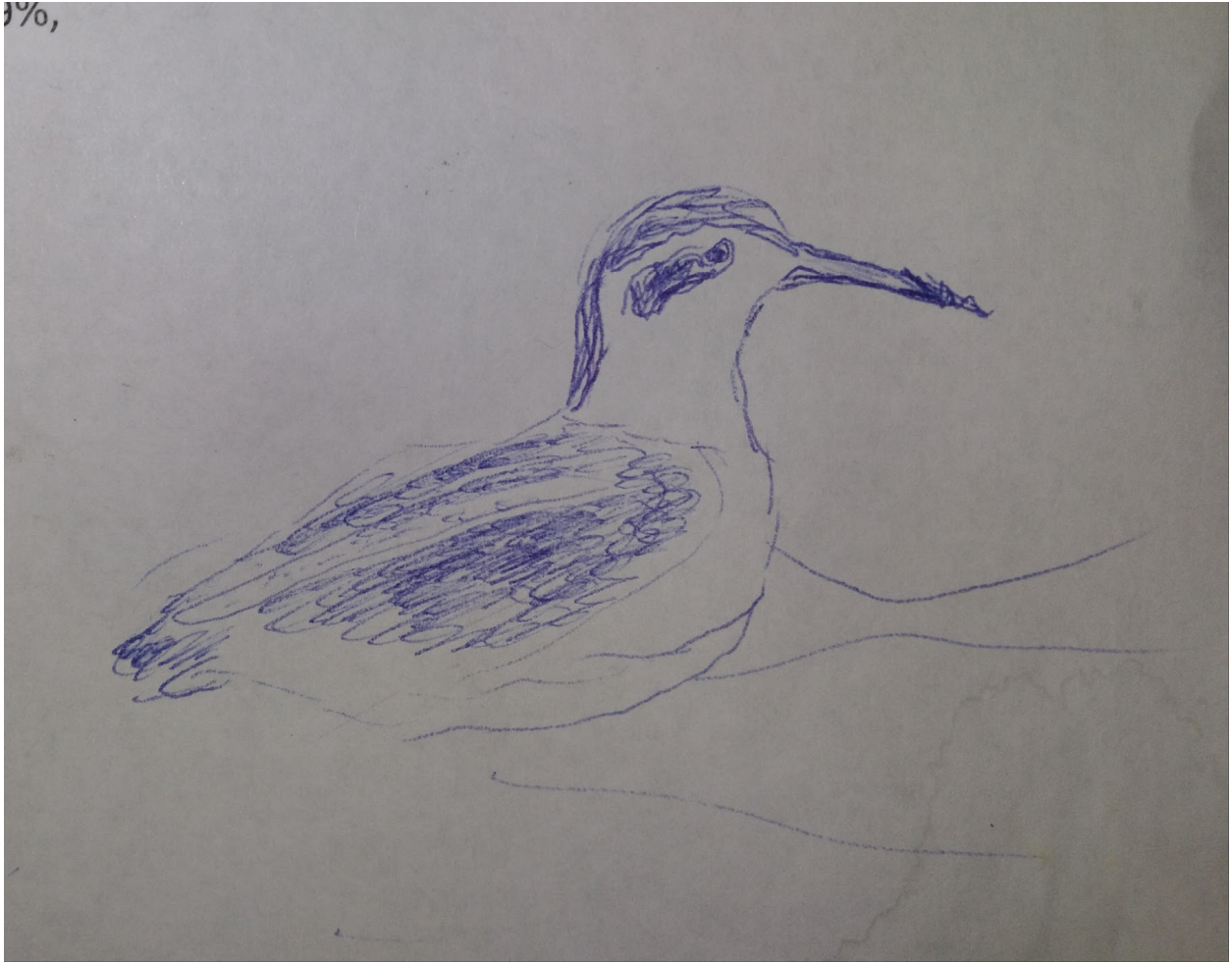
If yes, may we include your name with the report? ____ fine _____







3%,



Note that the sketch was made the day after the observation, shortly before compiling the similar species section, and without consulting outside resources