

Species: RED PHALAROPE

Phalaropus fulicarius

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 28 + 30 + June 1. Time Bird Seen: 10:00 A.M. on 28 to 3:30 P.M. on June 1st

Locality: 6 1/2 Miles South 2 Miles East of Monte Vista, Colo. Unit 15 Monte Vista Refuge

Nearest Town: Monte Vista, Colorado County: Rio Grande

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Phillip J. Feiger</u>	<u>6084 S. Hwy. 15 Monte Vista, Colo. 81144</u>	<u>252-3125</u>
<u>(Other visitors also noted the bird and correctly identified it on June 1st, but we do not know their names or addresses.)</u>		

Optical Equipment: None Needed By This Observer

If photographed, type of equipment used: Not Photographed

Light Conditions: Excellent

Distance from bird (how measured): Approx. 15' - Estimated

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: M Plumage: Summer

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Bird working in shallow water impoundment in Unit 15 near approx. 30 Wilson's Phalarope. Did not become excited or appear to be nervous by number of people in bus that happened to see bird. I was making tour of area with school group. Was feeding in general manner of all phalaropes, but was off to one side.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Bird was approx. size of Wilson's Phalarope feeding near it. Very rusty colored body with gray yellow back with small amount of white above eye. There was no doubt in my mind that it was a Red Phalarope, even though it would be extremely rare in this locality.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

No call was made that I could distinguish from other Phalaropes near it.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Shallow marsh in Unit 15 on the Monte Vista
Refuge. Bottom vegetation consists of Horned
+ Sage Pondweed + fairy shrimp and snails are
common. Edges are composed of bullrush, salt grass, +
black rush.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Just by the color and markings on the bird,

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have worked with Fish & Wildlife on refuges for 30
years where phalaropes are common migrants &
nesters.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation.

Did not influence it at all as I knew what the
bird was the minute it was sighted.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory X

PRINT NAME: Charles R. Bryant SIGNATURE: Charles R. Bryant DATE: 6/9/75

Street Address: Box 511 Town and State: Monte Vista, Colo. ZIP: 81449

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge

Post Office Box 511

Monte Vista, Colorado 81144

Species: Red Phalarope (Vernacular Name) Phalaropus fulicarius (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 1 June 1975 Time Bird Seen: 1410 hrs to 1420 hrs

Locality: Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge

Nearest Town: Monte Vista County: Pio Grande

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
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also observed by refuge personnel - in a brief exchange w/ one staff (unfortunately it was Sunday) he said that they had first spotted it 25 May

Optical Equipment: Bushnell 7x35 binoculars Bausch & Lomb 15-60x telescope

Light Conditions: good - a bright afternoon w/ scattered thunderclouds

Distance from Bird (how measured): (estimate) 25 yards

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♀ (?) Plumage: adult breeding plumage

Overall Appearance and Size: unmistakably a phalarope. Numerous red-billed Wilson's Phalaropes provided good comparison. The Red Phalarope was slightly smaller than them so a size comparison was difficult. Distinctive shorter, thicker bill and bright red coloration.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): shorter, stouter, thicker than Wilson's. Yellow w/ dusky tip

Legs (shape and color): not seen as it was swimming. Throated the obs.

Crown and Forehead: reddish-brownish Eye (color): not noted

Nape: brownish Face: large white eye/face patch Throat: reddish

Breast and Sides: red - uniformly so

Belly and Flanks: uniformly red

Undertail Coverts: red

Back: brownish - darker centers to feathers

Wings: folded - no details noted

Underwings: not seen

Rump: no clear view as wings were folded Uppertail Coverts: not seen

Upper Side of Tail: not noted

Under Side of Tail: no details noted

Shape of Tail: folded throughout

Voice: not heard

Behavior: busily swimming - no swirling or feeding noted - not much activity

Habitat: shallow pond behind dikes, a narrow band behind & near grasses behind that

Prior Experience with this Species:

seen on galapagos boat trip to Star Island, New Hampshire, March 1973. Short looks but close ones of 3 adults in breeding plumage - boat approached them & then they flew away.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? With the to-be-expected Wilson's Phalaropes close by, it was obvious that this was not one of them. It is an unmistakable bird in breeding plumage. The red color & white face patch were noticed without binoculars. I was flying over the ponds as I drove slowly by and my mind clicked "what a minute" when I saw the odd bird slightly off by itself. A single glance confirmed in my mind that it was a Red Phalarope. Locality not withstanding.

This Report was written From: Notes made during after ☒ observation; Memory _____

Signed: William J. Plummer Street Address: 1148 Downing St #3

Date Prepared: 11 June 1975 Town and State: Denver, CO ZIP: 80214

might I get a couple of copies of this ^(blank) form sent back to me
to car in my car & bird book should there be a
next time.

Thank you very much.

Bill Johnson