

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 Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius***
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **one adult non-breeding**
3. Parish: **Orleans**
Specific Locality: **Bayou Sauvage NWR, Hwy. 11, main pond.**
4. Date(s) when observed: **Oct. 17 and 18, 2015**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **About noon.**
6. Reporting observer and address: **David P. Muth, 2765 Orchid St., New Orleans, LA 70119**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **None.**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **Re-found by various people the following day; not sure if any found it thereafter. I saw it the following day in the company of Charlie Lyon, Cathy and Phil DiSalvo and Ed Wallace.**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Bright and sunny, some optical distortion experienced when trying to study the distant bird on 10/17; on 10/18 sun was setting but light was (briefly) excellent without heat waves.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Eagle Optic Platinum series, 10x; Pentax 20-60 Zoom scope; on 10-18 also looked through Zwarovski 100 mm scope.**
11. Distance to bird(s): **150-500 yards.**

12. Duration of observation: on **10/17 intermittently over 30 minutes as it flushed and had to be relocated; on 10/18 over about 20 minutes.**

13. Habitat: **A large open shallow pond with derelict stumps and logs in brackish to intermediate marsh visible on the west side of Highway 11 at the curve 3.28 miles south of the 1-10 East exit to Irish Bayou/Hwy 11. Water levels were very low and the entire un-vegetated area was full of shorebirds, ducks, coots, herons, egrets, ibis etc.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Feeding actively, flushing, flying, and resuming feeding. The phalarope was pretty far out and moving around a lot. There were 400+ shorebirds, mostly Western Sandpipers, and they were very flighty. While the phalarope was sometimes mixed in with other shorebirds, most of the time it was feeding very actively alone in shallow water among the old baldcypress stumps and logs. Though it changed position about a dozen times, often flushing when other shorebirds flushed, on 10/17 I was able to relocate it each time, though when I left most of the shorebirds and it had disappeared, at least temporarily. I eventually got enough looks at the bird on the ground and in flight to be satisfied that it is a red and not a red-necked.**

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*):

A medium sized (Dunlin sized but not as dumpy), pale gray and white shorebird with black cap and eye patch, white forehead, *plain, un-streaked* gray back, a white belly with white extending *on to shoulder*, white underwing without a dark leading edge, 'typical' bill (thin but not needle like, a little shorter than a LEYE). The bird stood out from other shorebirds by its very active phalarope behavior (frenetic, darting and picking from the surface) and by its light overall color (like a lone Sanderling among Dunlin).

The bird was never close enough for a detailed study or great photos. However, I got enough looks at it in flight and feeding, while actively looking for back streaking and at the underwing pattern, to rule out RNPH. The photos are digi-scoped with the I-Phone or zoomed out to 1200 mm with the Canon SX50; shadows and black-white contrasts are exaggerated.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25464514>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25468945>



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Digiscope with I-phone



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16. Voice: **Not heard.**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Red-necked Phalarope eliminated by un-streaked back, plain white underwing linings, and white shoulder patch.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **I have lots of very distant digiscope-d I-phone images and a few very distant shots with my Canon SX 50.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Very limited—one in Louisiana, a few offshore California.**

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

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

b. after observation: **Nat. Geo., Sibley, online.**

21. This description is written from:

	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
xx	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	Same date— Ebird entry.
xx	memory		
xx	study of images		

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

23. Date: **February 21, 2016**

Time: **1700 h.**

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**