

Louisiana Ornithological Society's
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 lobates*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

One, Apparent Male molting from breeding to non-breeding plumage.

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

St. Landry Parish, in crawfish pond at SW corner of Dusty Road and Noel Road.

4. Date(s) when observed:

August 11, 2015

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

About 5 PM, CDST

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner
428 Hickory Hill Drive
Boyce, LA 71409

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):

Viewing bird to the south with sky overcast. No glare.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Zeiss 10 x 42 binoculars.

11. Distance to bird(s):

Approximately 50 yards.

12. Duration of Observation:

Approximately 2-3 minutes.

13. Habitat:

Crawfish pond that was being drained. Very mucky in immediate area with water in ruts from crawfish harvesting equipment. Shallow water along distant levee being deepest and most extensive at drain in SE corner of unit.

14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observations (flying, feeding, resting; including and stress habits in identification: relate events surrounding observation):

Observed the bird apparently feeding along flooded harvesting rut. Noticed it as being different as it rushed back and forth along the rut parallel to my location.

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):

Medium-sized shorebird smaller than nearby Stilt Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs but much larger than numerous Least Sandpipers. Recognized it immediately as a phalarope with black, sharply pointed bill. Most obvious feature was a dull, reddish-orange neck. Back was blackish-gray. Was light below.

16. Voice:

Could not detect a voice.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Expected species would be Wilson's Phalarope but color of neck was dull, reddish-orange unlike that of WIPH. Size was smaller than expected for WIPH. Bill shorter than that of WIPH.

18. Photos/Recordings:

Could not relocate bird after initial sighting from vehicle so no photos.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Have seen numerous Red-necked Phalaropes in Alaska in summer 2006 with most seen in Dead Horse area. Had seen some on pelagic trips off California and Oregon.

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

a. at time of observation:

Sibley's Field Guide

b. after observation:

National Geographic Field Guide and Peterson's Field Guide.

21. This description is written from: ___notes made during the observation (notes attached?); _x_ notes made after the observation; _x_ memory.

Time about 5 PM 11 August 2015. Location crawfish pond at SW corner of intersection of Dusty Road and Noel Road. Dusty Road intersects LA 751 about 2.5 miles west of location. Brooks Road intersects Dusty Road about a mile west of site. Dusty road runs north to LA 358.

Watched for about 2 minutes. Realized it was a phalarope. Bird was a "small" phalarope with short bill and back neck reddish brown. Grayish-black back above and light below. Simply was wrong for Wilson's Phalarope. Presumed male molting from breeding plumage. Size judged based on nearby Lesser Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpipers, and Least Sandpipers.

Hundreds of shorebirds in field but this one was clearly different dashing from left to right along a flooded rut parallel to Dusty Road about 50 yards from me. Seen clearly from levee through gap in grass on top of levee as viewed from driver's seat in my truck. Parked and spent about 10 minutes trying to relocate and photograph bird. Unsuccessful. Either flushed and moved to field with hundreds of shorebirds to south over a levee or left field.

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

Yes

23. Signature of reporter __Jay V. Huner__ 9:50 PM // 8/12/15