

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Red-necked Phalarope

How Many?2

Location?Union Slough NWR, Kossuth Co.

Habitat?Swimming in shallow water with other shorebirds

Date?26 Jul 1988

Time?9:20-10:30 a.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:Mark Proescholdt

Description of bird:We first noticed both birds swimming together because of their behavior and distinct plumage pattern. The birds were an estimated 25% smaller than nearby Pectoral Sandpipers. While under observation, both birds were continuously swimming and spinning in the water. Both birds were fairly chunky and had a slender neck and a small head. The most distinct features of the birds were the short, slender, dark bill and the dark patch extending back from and including each eye. The upperparts were light brown with several lighter stripes running the length of the back. The wings were the same color as the back. The underparts were mostly white except for a buffy wash on the breast and neck. We did not see the birds in flight. Based on the plumage, we thought the birds were probably adults that were still moulting into basic plumage. I have never before seen a Red-necked Phalarope in Iowa that showed this plumage.

Similar species and how eliminated:The behavior and body shape eliminates all other shorebirds except phalaropes. The combination of a short, slender bill, a dark eye patch, and light streaks on the back eliminates Wilson's and Red phalaropes.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun directly behind us. Estimated viewing distance was 300 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen many Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes in Iowa and thousands of Red Phalaropes off the east coast.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?2 days