

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

Species Northern phalarope 2. Number: 1

Location Coralville Reservoir, NW of Iowa City IA

Date: _____ 5. Time Bird seen: 8 AM to 8:20

Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Small, sandwing-sized shorebird, dark (blackish) ~~face~~ ^{on} crown, back of neck, ~~upper parts~~ back + wings. Face, throat, ~~rest~~ breast + belly white, with a dark mark through the eye. long, slender, black bill; legs black also. Bill straight + needle-like.

Description of voice, if heard: —

Description of behavior: running about, very actively, picking up things from surface. Kept to itself + did not associate with other shorebirds

Habitat - general: mudflat at edge of reservoir.
specific:

1. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
black + white coloration mark thru eye, eliminate most other shorebirds; black bill, unstreaked back rule out red phalarope (much rarer in IA). imm. fall sandwing generally similar, but has a scaly back even though it's dark in color.

1. Distance (how measured)? ~ 100 yd to ~ 50 yd (est) 12. Optical equipment: 10X50 binoc 20X60 scope

3. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
cloudy morning with diffuse light. sun behind observers.

4. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Have seen N. phalaropes off coast of Mass, Wash. seen it twice on land (Mass, IA) before this.

5. Other observers: N. Halmi., C. Newlon, J. Taylor. Have seen Wilson's (Mass, Wash, Mont, IA) but not red. Have seen most other N. Am. shorebirds

6. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

7. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —

8. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: None.

9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Signature Michael C Newlon Address: 128 grove st

Date: 20 Nov. City, State: Iowa City IA.