

Northern Phalarope - 7.

May 24, 1980.

Willow Slough, Mills County, Iowa.

Description: Crown, back of neck, back gray. Face, breast, underparts white. Brown on neck. White stripe in wing. Rump dark.



Behavior - very active. Sometimes one would fly over to another + start bobbing its head up + down. Sometimes, probably when feeding, one would put the breast down so the white under tail + coverts + belly would flash. Swimming well away from land, 6 together + 1 far from them.

Light, etc. Bird seen 6:20 - 7:00 pm. Group of 6 straight west of me, the lone ~~one~~ northwest. Slight chop on the slough because of stiff breeze from east. Sun bright + ~~with~~ then with ~~light~~ slight haze in sky (not on water). Still bright. Distance 1,000 feet???. Seen with 20x telescope then checked with 40x.

Books, etc. Notes written ~~top~~ while I saw the birds, before I got home to my books. I've seen Northern Phalaropes twice here and ~~sees~~ after in Oregon.

This written 25 May 1980 from notes taken 24 May. I probably wouldn't have documented them but 7 is a lot of Northern Phalaropes here.

Similar species: the more common Wilson's phalarope is eliminated by head pattern, wing stripe, + dark rump.

- Barbara Wilson  
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