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First Record of the Red Phalarope from the Philippines

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The Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) is an extremely rare visitor in east and southeast Asia. Étchécopar and Hüe (1978) cite it as a sporadic migrant in China, and King and Dickinson (1975) warn that it "might turn up" in the geographical region of southeast Asia included in their book. There are only two previously documented records of the species south of Japan and China: a specimen from Hsien Shi, Taiwan on 23 February 1968 (Mees 1970), and a sighting of two individuals among a flock of hundreds of Red-necked Phalaropes (*Phalaropus lobatus*) at sea between Santubong and the Turtle Islands, Sarawak in north Borneo on 2-3 October 1968 (Croxall 1969). DuPont (1971) lists the Red-necked Phalarope as the only phalarope known from the Philippines.

On 6 December 1981, Wischusen, Gast, Timothy H. Fisher, and David Simpson found a dead Red Phalarope in a brackish fish pond bordering Tayabas Bay, 4 km east of the municipality of Pagbilao, Quezon Province on the island of Luzon, Philippines. The bird was intact but partially decomposed when found. The preserved specimen is now in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ #105640). Sex could not be determined. It is generally in winter (grey) plumage but a few reddish brown upper tail coverts and abdominal feathers are still present, and the paired 4th and 5th outer rectrices are tipped in cinnamon. Its stomach contained only a small amount of grit and a small gastropod shell.

The bird's presence was probably due to Typhoon "Anding," which originated east of Guam and hit Polillo Island about 100 km northeast of Pagbilao on 24 November 1981 with winds of 240 kph.

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