

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

**Species:** Wilson's Phalarope; **Number:** 1

**Location:** Coralville Reservoir (Greencastle Ave.), Johnson Co., IA

**Date:** 17 Oct 1997; **Time:** 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

**Name and address:** Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

**Others before/with/after:** I showed it to Rita and Al Goranson. Jim Fuller later told me than John Rutenbeck had reported it on the 12th.

**Habitat and circumstances:** old backwater now without trees, narrow mud flats.

**Description of bird:** I noticed a thin whitish shorebird in shallow water that I recognized as a phalarope. Intermediate in size with Lesser Yellowlegs and Dunlin in same field of view. All white underparts. Dusky yellow legs compared with black of Dunlin. Upper parts uniform light gray—seemed to include top of head. No back streaks. Slight dark behind eye (? through eye). Bill long and thin, longer than head and dark. While watching through scope, the flock of birds flew and I saw a white tail. I came back later and picked out the bird on the far side of the water. Later it was at the north end and we got good views in scope. Finally, a Peregrine Falcon chased all the birds away.

**Voice:** not heard.

**Similar species:** At first I thought the bird was a Wilson's, but the date seemed odd. However, the size, lack of back streaks, lack of dark auricular patch, and long thin bill eliminate Red-necked and Red phalaropes, both of which would be more likely at this date.

**Any one have reservations?:** no.

**Light:** back to side light on calm sunny day; **Distance:** 150 to 300 yards (est.); **Optics:** 20 and 30x scopes.

**Previous experience:** Have seen many.

**References before/after viewing:** Checked dates—latest 28 September. Looked at National Geographic Guide while viewing.

**Time of notes:** 2 hrs., handwritten on form; **Final typing:** 6 weeks (verbatim)