

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Greater Yellowlegs; **Number:** 1

Location: Cone Marsh, Louisa Co., IA

Date: 18 Dec 1998; **Time:** about noon

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

Others before/with/after: with Jim Fuller

Habitat and circumstances: natural marsh with mud flats

Description of bird: I spotted a large shorebird with the naked eye. It was considerably larger than Killdeers present in the area, but not seen in direct comparison. Its long bright yellow legs were thick, especially at the knees. The bill was long and mildly upturned at the tip. The bill was about 1.5 time the length of the head. The bird was gray with speckled upper parts and plain underparts.

Voice: We did not hear it call.

Similar species: We immediately called it a Greater Yellowlegs based on size, legs, and bill.

Any one have reservations?: no

Light: mostly light overcast; **Distance:** 40 yards (guess); **Optics:** 10x binocular, 20x scope.

Previous experience: A common bird, but this is the first definite record for December in Iowa.

References before/after viewing: none.

Time of notes/ Final typing: 5 hours