

DOCUMENTATION FORM

SPECIES: Wilson's Phalarope

NUMBER: 1 male

DATE: 28 Mar 1991

TIME: approx. 9:30-10:45 a.m.

LOCATION: Riverton W.A., Fremont Co., IA

OBSERVER: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

OTHER OBSERVERS: Tanya Bray

DESCRIPTION OF BIRD(S): A medium-sized shorebird walking around on a large mudflat with hundreds of other shorebirds, mostly Baird's Sandpipers. The bird was noticeably larger than the Baird's, being closer to the size of a Pectoral Sandpiper. The chunky body, slender-necked appearance, and habit of running erratically around on the mud in short dashes were very typical of a phalarope. The bill was longer than the length of the head, straight, and needle-like. The mantle and wings were dark brown. The crown and sides of the neck were also brown. The bird showed a prominent white eyeline, a white chin, and some faint buff color on the front of the neck. The flanks, undertail, and the rest of the underparts were white. Based on the dull plumage, we sexed the bird as a male.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW ELIMINATED: The body shape, bahavior, and plumage identify the bird as a phalarope. Bill shape eliminates other phalaropes, which would be even more unlikely on this date.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT AND VIEWING CONDITIONS: Viewing conditions were good with the sun behind us on a partly cloudy day. Estimated viewing distance was 150 yards. I used a Buschnell 20-45x spotting scope.

REFERENCES CONSULTED: none

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIES: Very familiar with all three species of phalaropes.

HOW LONG BEFORE FIELD NOTES WRITTEN: none written

HOW LONG BEFORE THIS FORM COMPLETED: 12 hours