

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: White-rumped Sandpiper; *Number:* 1 juv.

Location: Coralville Reservoir, Johnson Co., Iowa

Date: 13 September 1995; *Time:* 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. (approx.)

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

Others before/with/after: none

Habitat and circumstances: backwater with mud flats

Description of bird: I saw the same or a similar bird yesterday and saw a white rump as it flew off out of site. I was hoping to see it again to confirm the identification. It was feeding in shallow water with Semipalmated, Pectoral, and Stilt sandpipers. It was intermediate in size between Semipalmated and Pectoral sandpipers. It had a long profile with short legs (vs. Stilt Sandpiper). The wings protruded well beyond the tail. The upper parts were grayer than Pectorals and slightly browner than Semipalmateds. The bill was longer than Semipalmateds and black. The legs were black. The underparts were white except for a gray wash across the upper breast and a few short streaks on the sides near the bend of the wing. The upper parts appeared scaly, which suggests a juvenile. The face was plain except for a pale line above the eye. I watched the bird through a telescope for a long time (perhaps 20 minutes). Finally, something flushed the 150 Ring-billed Gulls that were nearby and the shorebirds became alerted. This allowed me to concentrate on the tail as the bird flew away from me and revealed a white rump and dark distal tail.

Voice: not heard.

Similar species: The size, elongated profile, and lack of sharp belly band but this bird in the category of Baird's or White-rumped sandpiper. I have seen a number of Baird's at this location in the last few weeks. They were browner above and had a buffy breast. The streaks on the sides also suggested White-rumped. Having seen the white rump on two consecutive days convinced me of my first fall White-rumped Sandpiper for Iowa.

Any one have reservations?: no

Light: sun in east, looking west; *Distance:* about 75 yards; *Optics:* 20x scope.

Previous experience: I have seen many in spring, as well as some in fall on the East Coast.

References before/after viewing: none.

Time of notes: At end of viewing; *Final typing:* 3 hours.