

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/22/00

Wilson's Phalarope

20 Oct 1996

Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth Co., IA

*Matthew Kenne

IBL 67:22

Record Number: 96-49

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Matthew Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona 50511 [4/6/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 67:22

Records Committee: IBL 68:87

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Well-described basic Wilson's Phalarope with white rump seen. Late date.

A-D, Description, especially white rump, bill shape and length, and yellow legs (=juvenile), adequate to eliminate other phalaropes. Very late date also fits juv.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

96-49

What species? Wilson's Phalarope How many? 1
Location? USNWR Kossooth Co. South of County Rd - B14
Type of Habitat? marsh with low water level, muddy cattail flats
When? date(s): Oct. 20, 1996 time: 11:10 AM to 11:30 AM
Who? your name and address: Matthew Kenne 709 N. Phillips, Algona
50511
Others with you: none
Others before or after you: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

My first view was of what I believed a Red Phalarope swimming in shallow water on far side of marsh with ducks + yellowlegs. I hiked down from other side for a close view + spooked hundreds of ducks + a few geese off the marsh. Swearing to myself, I searched for the bird. Soon a flock of yellowlegs settled in a puddle only 20-30yds from me. One of them was different!

Approx. the same size as adjacent L. yellowlegs, the bird was plain pale gray on the crown, hind neck, back, and wings. It was clear white on the face and underparts. It had a pale gray line from the eye backward, ~~joining~~ joining with the hind neck, a "phalarope mark" but not nearly as dark as on a Red-necked (or Red). The legs were almost as yellow as the yellowlegs'. The bill was black, very thin (needle-like) and longer than on a Red-necked (or Red). It was pot-bellied and small headed compared to yellowlegs. It fed with a frantic henky-

Similar species; how eliminated: jerky action when on land or wading in shallow water. It had a white rump when it flew in to land.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Sunny from the side, 20-30 yds estimate, 20X spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I've seen plenty of Wilson's Phalaropes, still no Red Phalarope!

References and persons consulted before writing description:

none

How long before field notes made? none this form completed? 3 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).