

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Red Phalarope

7 Oct 1998

Coralville Res., Johnson Co., IA

Thomas H. Kent

P-0602, IBL 69:35

Record Number: 98-26

Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246

PHOTOGRAPH

T. H. Kent, P-0602

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 69:35

Records Committee: IBL 69:89

VOTE: 5 A-P, 2 A-D

A-D, I can't make out details of the bill or scapulars in the photo.

A-P, A-D is a good description. The photo is difficult to see, but with magnifier the short bill and light crown can be seen.

A-P, Although the bill shape is unclear in the photo, the clear gray back indicates Red Phalarope.

A-D, [no comment]



Red Phalarope 98-26 P-0602
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DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Red Phalarope; *Number:* 1 basic

Location: Babcock Access, Coralville Reservoir, Johnson County, IA

Date: 7 October 1998; *Time:* 10:05 to 10:40 a.m.

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

Others before/with/after: none (as of this writing)

Habitat and circumstances: Field that floods with highwater or heavy rain—good shorebirds there this fall.

Description of bird: The only shorebird on the pond was on the far shore, appeared mostly white, and swam and twisted in the water. It was obviously a phalarope, but there were no other birds present for size comparison except for a much larger Greater Yellowlegs that flew in later. The underparts were white and the upperparts light gray. The bill was relatively short (about 2/3 the length of the head) and appeared all black to me. It was straight and of uniform caliber. There was a black patch covering the eye. The forehead and top of head were white. Black supercilliaris extended back from over the eyes to join on the back of the crown and extend as a thin black line down the hind neck. The back, scapulars, and wing coverts were uniformly light gray with some darkening along the wing edge. I did not see the legs. The tail was light.

Voice: not heard.

Similar species: Wilson's Phalarope is a larger bird with long bill. Red-necked Phalarope has streaks on the scapulars and coverts and a longer and thinner tapered bill. I did not see the bird in flight. The dark patch over the eye did not extend down and back as shown in the book.

Any one have reservations?: no

Light: overcast; *Distance:* 30-40 yards (guess); *Optics:* 20x scope, 10x binocular, 560mm lens.

Previous experience: I have seen about 5 in Iowa and many on the coasts.

References before/after viewing: looked at National Geographic Guide while viewing.

Time of notes: none; *Final typing:* 2.5 hours.