

Wilson's Phalarope
13 Mar 1983
Cone Marsh, Louisa Co., IA
*T. Kent

Record Number: 83-24
Classification: A-D

earliest date by about a month; IBL 53:51; 54:39

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 53:51

Records Committee: IBL 54:39

VOTE: 6-111, 1-abstain

III, Not totally satisfactory description, but bill shape and size, white rump, unmarked wings highly suggestive. Experienced observer. Slight problem with "white tail". However, description appears to eliminate other similar species, most likely Stilt sandpiper.

III, Poor viewing conditions. Frankly, I wouldn't believe most people if they identified a shorebird like this.

83-24
III

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Wilson's Phalarope (1), 13 Mar 1983, Cone M., Louisa Co., Iowa.

Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

With Tom Staudt, no others before or after.

12:50 to 1:00 PM.

Marsh with mud flats.

"A shorebird bathing in water, then perched on a small island preening, and then feeding in a sandpiper-like fashion. Extremely thin bill slightly longer than head. Overall moderately chunky bird. Leg color not seen well. Underparts light, as was head. Wings darker. When bird flew, it lifted its wings nicely. Tail white--grayer at tip, white on rump. Wings dark on primaries and secondaries, slightly lighter on coverts. No wing stripe." Did not twirl in typical phalarope fashion. Did not see definite eyeline, but distance and light not the best. Size = Killdeer in same field of view.

Not heard.

Behavior as noted above.

Mostly back lighting at 75 yards (est.) with 20 x scope.

Similar species: Other phalaropes and most charadris have wing stripe. Bill too short and thin for yellowlegs or stilt sandpiper. Also, shape and markings do not fit other species.

Agreement: Staudt agreed with identification.

Previous experience: Have seen many, but usually in better plumage.

References/time used: Robbins used while viewing.

Time of notes/typed: while viewing/5 hours.