

329-01-1989

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NO.

PREPARED BY

DATE

Wilson's Phalarope, Millers Pond, Crawford County8/20/89

Ed Kwater.

On August 17<sup>th</sup> 1989 Joyce Hoffman called me to report that she had just found a Wilson's Phalarope at Millers Ponds. My first opportunity to visit the site was on the 20<sup>th</sup>. As the bird was not visible I wrongly assumed it had moved on.

However after 1½ hours of observation it appeared from the cover of some dense vegetation and began feeding actively. The following field notes were taken:

The bird was about the size of a ♀ Lesser Yellowlegs and similar to that species in shape but with a noticeable pot-bellied appearance, shorter legs, long thin neck, small head and very thin bill. The crown was dark gray-brown. The nape, mantle and scapulars were uniform pale gray. The coverts and tertials were brown, narrowly edged with buff. In flight there was an obvious square white rump patch and the tail was uniformly very pale gray. The face was white with a narrow gray line behind the eye curving down behind the ear coverts, a characteristic mark of all phalaropes in basic plumage. The rest of the underparts were white and unmarked. The legs were medium length and orangey-yellow. The bill was long, very fine and all black. No wing bar was present. The bird fed very actively. It was observed pirouetting in tight circles of only about a foot in diameter, presumably

stirring up food with its feet. It also fed by running through shallow water in a straight line, using sideways sweeping motions of its bill in a manner similar to an American Avocet. It was also seen swimming for brief periods.

I judged the bird to be a first-winter individual due to the gray and white plumage pattern and buff-edged brown coverts. In "Shore-birds" Hayman states that juveniles have after molted through to their first basic plumage by August of their first year but the retention of this pattern on the wing coverts indicates a hatching year bird.

Length of observation period - 30 minutes.

Optics - x 10 binoculars, x 20 spotting scope.

Previous experience with this species - 2 individuals in Britain, at least 40 in Arizona and Colorado and another one in Pennsylvania (Presque Isle).

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Record No.: 329-01-1989

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # / of

Species: *Wilson's Phalarope*

Date of Sighting: 8-20-89

Observer(s): Ed Kwater

Date of Submission: 1989

Submitted by: Ed Kwater

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Leberman		X					
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS		1	6				

DECISION *Accepted Class III*

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *Bm Haas*

Date: *3-1-90*