

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Yellow Rail *noronaeensis* How many? oneLocation? Northwest corner of UNI prairie preserve

Type of habitat? \_\_\_\_\_

When? date(s): April 27<sup>th</sup> 1984 time: 7:30pm to 7:35pmWho? your name and address: Ronan Young Box 248 Marquette IA. 52158

others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

- white wing patches when in flight
- rapid wingbeats
- a short tail
- 6-7 inches long
- short beak
- dark mask from beak back toward neck
- going around eyes
- dark & light brown stripes and checks on back and side
- seemed difficult to scare, flushed only when I was very close. was able to crawl close (<1m)

Similar species and how eliminated: virginia rail, has a larger bill and no white wing patchesDid any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

dusk, app. 1/2 meter away, no optical equipmentPrevious experience with species and similar ones: studied virginia rail preserved specimen in laboratory, no experience w/ yellow rail

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peter Lowther,How long before field notes made? 1 hour this form completed? 4 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Notes made  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour after sighting  
Ronan Young; 27 April 1984, Cedar Falls



114-5

over

Rapid wingbeats  
w/ white patch on  
wings

Dark stripe through  
eye

Lt Brown colored  
short bill  
real small

# BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

## SCIENCE 2438

TO: T. H. Kent

FROM: Peter Lowther

Documentation for sighting of Yellow Rail by one of my students.  
The 3x5 card are his notes made shortly after seeing the bird.  
Ronan is a good birder (not brilliant, but not poor or average).  
He was out watching woodcock displays at the time.