

What species? King Rail How many? 3

Location: County Dubuque Block 292

Location in detail Sec. 26 Dike and canal in Mississippi River east of John Deere power plant and water intake house.

Habitat? Miss. R. island, edge of canal

When? date? July 3, 1986 Time: 6:55 AM to 7:15 AM

Observer? Name: George Crossley

Address: 1959 Stanton, Dubuque, IA 52001

Telephone: 319-583-5530

Description of bird(s): include size, shape, detailed description of all parts including bill, eye, head, neck, back, wings, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet; also voice and behavior. Use additional sheets if necessary. about 15-16" incl bill 2-2 1/2"

Large stocky body, neck normal proportional length, legs maybe 5-6", large short wings, stubby tail, rusty brown breast, barred underparts crosswise blackish on lighter background, long-toed feet. Two queer loud similar calls attracted my attention, a rather extended raucous squawk. One bird remained in nearly same location in eldar view entire time; the other called from the reeds and tall grasses, 30" tall. Chick was all black, 4-5 inches; it came into view and walked passed the stationary bird, while feeding, then turned and went back into the reeds near where the other bird was calling.

Similar species and how eliminated: Virginia rail is only half the size, and similar. Have had Va. rail in hand. Saw Kings nearly every year, 30-40 years ago.

Did anyone have reservations about identification? If so, explain:

Robert Walton heard the calls on July 9, did not see the birds.

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance and how measured, optical equipment used. Early morning light was bright sun. Viewed at about 60 feet across the canal with 7x35 Nikon. Bird was not distracted by me - I was in clear view. Previous experience with this species and other similar ones:

BREEDING BEHAVIOR: Give all details observed that indicate that the species breeds on the block. If nest, eggs, young, or courtship display were observed, describe in detail.

one black young, 4-5 inches, was being called by two birds, one, probably the male (described) in full view, and second, probably a female, out of sight in the reeds.

If books or other birders were consulted before writing up the documentation, please list them here:

B.T. Peterson, after writing notes.

How long after observation were field notes made?

12 hours

How long after observation was this form completed?

12 hours