

SUPPORTING DETAILS OF UNCOMMON SPECIES SIGHTING

OBSERVED BY: FRANCIS L. MOORE

DATE OBSERVED: MAY 18, 1980

TIME OF OBSERVATION: 8:15 A.M.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: SUNNY to PARTLY CLOUDY with few clouds in the sky. Wind out of SSE at 10-15 mph.

DURATION OF OBSERVATION: Approximately 1½ to 2 seconds.

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Sun was in eastern sky, bird flew from in front of me as I faced SSE and flew in approximately SSE direction.

LOCATION: Bird was located on East side of Sweet Marsh, which is outside of Tripoli to the East. Observation was on a dike that comes off of and South of parking lot on second road going to the marsh as you proceed North from the Southern part of the Marsh. See map for location, at asterisk.

HABITAT: Habitat bird was found in was a grassy area about 2' to 2½' tall about 2' from dike and extending approximately 50' from dike. All around this particular area was large concentrations of cattails and sedges. Water was approximately 2" to 4" deep in area of sighting with deeper water on 3 sides of the area and the dike on the fourth side.

OBSERVERS AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: I was alone when the bird was flushed and had a pair of Bausch and Lomb 7x35mm Roof Prism Binoculars with me, although I did not get the chance to use them on this brief encounter with this bird.

SPECIES: YELLOW RAIL; *Coturnicops noveboracensis*; 1 bird seen.

DISTANCE FROM BIRD: Flushed at approximately 3 feet and went back into the marsh at approximately 25 feet from the place where it flushed.

RELATIVE SIZE OF BIRD: Bird was very small for a rail more the size of a fat sparrow without much of a tail.

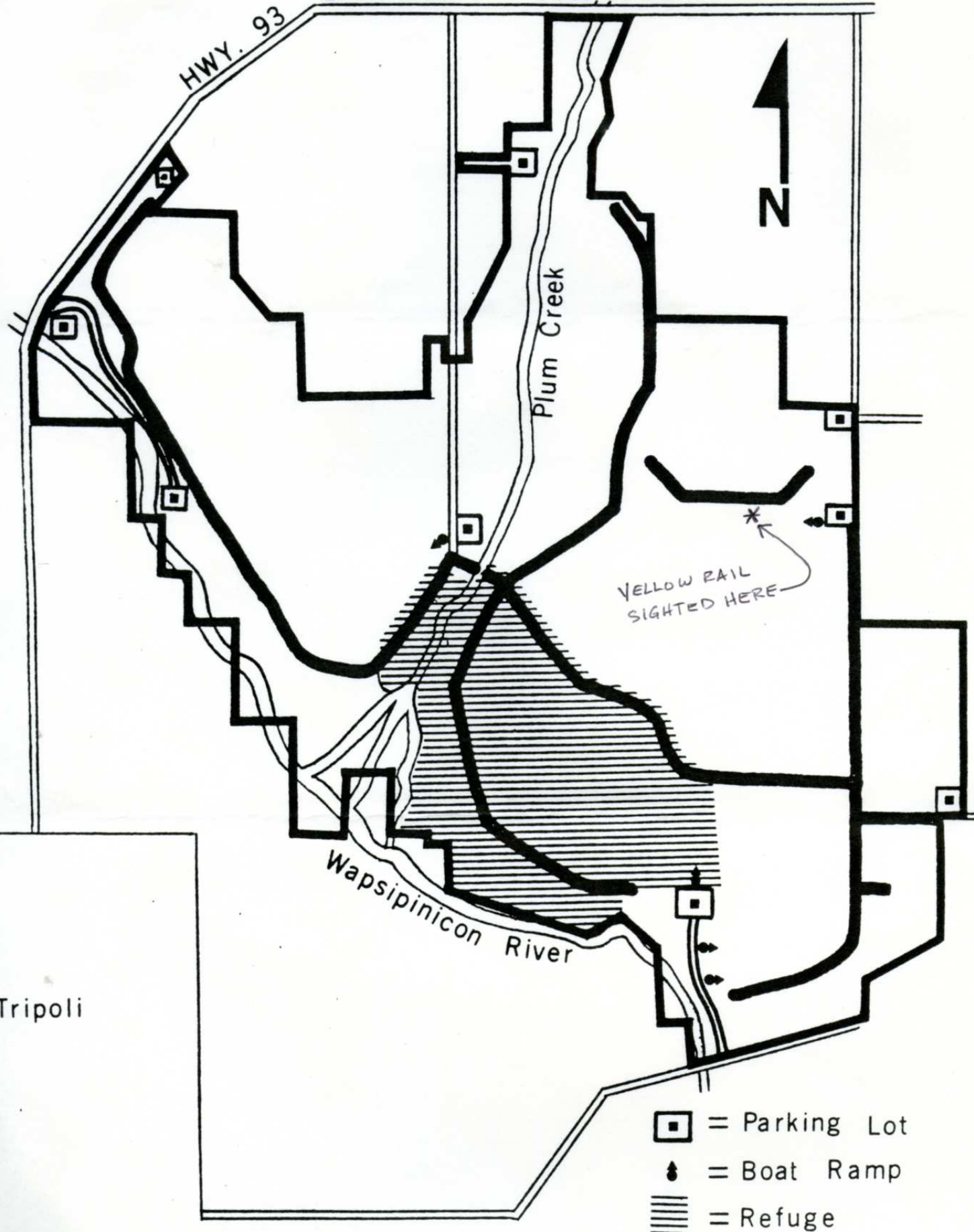
DESCRIPTION: For the short time that I saw the bird it had a rather dark ^{brown} crown line and lighter brown on the sides of its head and extending down its back. The legs dangled below the bird and had a yellow cast to them. There was quite a lot of streaking down the birds back as it flew directly away from me. The most striking thing that stood out was the white rectangular patches at the trailing side of the wing which appeared to be most of the secondaries. The rest of the wing was quite dark brown in comparison.

VOCALIZATION: No call note was heard.

BEHAVIOR: Bird flushed at approximately 3 feet and flew about 25 feet at an altitude of about $3\frac{1}{2}'$ to $4'$. I immediately went to the exact spot where ~~the~~ bird had entered the marsh but could not get bird to flush again.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: A yellow rail had been flushed within a few feet of where the bird flushed for me a few days earlier so it would appear that the bird I flushed could be one and the same bird that Bob Myers flushed ~~the~~ on a weekday a few days earlier. A yellow rail was also flushed within 10 feet of the spot the the one ~~was~~ I flushed a year earlier on May 26, 1979, documented by Bob Myers at that time. A yellow rail was also flushed by Joe Schaufenbuel at approximately the same location on May 5, 1979. This would appear to be a good location to see the yellow rail.

SWEET MARSH



- = Parking Lot
- ▲ = Boat Ramp
- ≡ = Refuge