

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Yellow Rail How many? 1

Location? Snake Creek Marsh - Greene County

Type of habitat? wet grassy area at edge of cattails

When? date(s): April 3, 1986 time: 6:30am to 6:31pm

Who? your name and address: Bob Myers RR2, Box 153 Perry, Iowa 52220

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.

I was wading for rails and had flushed several soras and one Virginia. The yellow rail flushed 3 or 4 ft from me and flew about 30 ft. before ^{it} dropped back into thick reeds. It was definitely a rail and possibly slightly smaller than a sora. The main I.D. mark was the white bar (patch) on the secondaries on each wing going from body out to primaries. Patch on this individual was quite narrow - probably about 1/2" or so wide. Rest of back appeared darkish. The bird was not flushed again.

Similar species and how eliminated: White patches on wings separate from other rails.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I am very familiar with the sp.

References and persons consulted before writing description: —

How long before field notes made? — this form completed? next day