

DETAILS OF UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Yellow Rail (1-2)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

LOCATION: Snake Creek Marsh (Greene County)

DATE: 20-21 September 1991

DETAILS: I went to Snake Creek Marsh midday, arriving about 1:35PM on September 20. About 150 yards west-northwest of the parking lot, I flushed a rail and in another ten yards flushed another, both from marsh grass and sedges. The marsh in the area was entirely dry underfoot. The first bird appeared to be smaller than the second, and had white wing patches along the trailing edge, which I could not see on the second bird. I identified the first bird as a yellow rail, and the second as a sora.

The next day, September 21, about 8:30AM, with E. & E. Armstrong, P. & R. Allen, and J. Sinclair we flushed a rail from nearly the same location which seemed small and had a white trailing edge. The Armstrongs and Allens left, and Sinclair and I continued to walk the marsh. While standing still in a short grass area, a rail flushed only 4-5 feet from my right foot. Both of us had an excellent view of this bird as it flew almost directly away from us. This bird certainly was smaller than any of the six soras we flushed previously and later, and the white wing patches were very obvious

I feel there was one yellow rail seen on September 20th, and two on September 21st.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: Both days were sunny. On the 20th, the bird flew north, and the following morning, the first bird flew southwest, and the second bird flew toward the south.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Swift Audubon 8.5 X 44 binoculars and naked eye.