

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Yellow Rail How many? 1

Location? Ames, in front of an apartment in W. Ames

Type of habitat? Cement Walk

When? date(s): April 13 time: 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Who? your name and address: Kraig Downs

others with you: Jim Dinsmore, Steve Dinsmore

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.

This bird was quite small. Approximately a little smaller than starling. It had a yellow bill with a black tip. It was kind of buffy brown and spotted slightly. It had yellow wing patches. It made a couple of noises. It squawked or ticked a couple of times.

Similar species and how eliminated: sora, yellow wing patches and size

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: clear, I had the bird in my hand and Jim Dinsmore did also. We had plenty of identification time

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have observed soras and Kings.
References and persons consulted before writing description: James Dinsmore, and several other birders.

How long before field notes made? an hour this form completed? a week