

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Yellow Rail

How Many?1

Location?Larson's Marsh, Story Co.

Habitat?wet, grassy area along edge of marsh

Date?23 Sep 1986

Time?3:20 P.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:The chunky body, weak flight, dangling legs, short neck, and stubby bill identified the bird as a rail. In flight, the back and wings were a light buffy brown except for a large, white patch on the trailing edge of each wing. Despite the generally poor viewing conditions, I got a good enough look to positively identify the bird.

Similar species and how eliminated:All other rails eliminated by the white wing patches.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were not very good-sky partly cloudy and I was looking almost directly into the sun. Estimated viewing distance was 15 ft at the closest. No optical equipment was used.

Previous experience with species:I have seen several Yellow Rails in Iowa.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?3 hours