

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? King Rail How many? 1

Location? Sect. 25; Lake Township; Clay Cty, Iowa

Type of habitat? Flooded timber adjacent to grass waterway flowing into seasonal marsh.

When? date(s): 12 May 1982 time: 19:00 to 19:05

Who? your name and address: Rex R. Johnson Dept. Animal Ecology Iowa State Univ. Ames, Iowa 50011

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.

Large, long billed rail, giving kek call, then walking rapidly, neck outstretched, through Carex sp. into flooded willow bat.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Virginia rail. Size and call.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Dusk. 10 m (estimated).

Previous experience with species and similar ones: 1981 king rail family group sighting. Two years research on Virginia rails and sora.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 1 hour this form completed? 25 days

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