

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? King Rail How many? 1Location? Doolittle Prairie, Ames, IowaType of habitat? Wet prairie, pothole fringe.When? date(s): May 6, 1983 time: 8:00 a.m. to \_\_\_\_\_Who? your name and address: Joe Schaufenbuel 924 Pammel Ct. 50010 Ames, IAothers with you: Steve Dinsmore, Ames, IAothers 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.



A large brownish-rusty rail was flushed and observed flying for several dozen yards. The bill was fleshy colored unlike the bright orange-red of spring Virginia Rails. The bird was observed briefly at close range so little detail could be observed in the plumage. Since a Virginia was flushed not long before this bird was flushed the size and color could be noted: The King was not as dark rusty, and ~~didn't~~ seemed to have a longer thicker bill. Also the bird seemed to have a longer neck. When taking off the rail needed to take much more time and labored more than a Virginia to get going. In flight the bird ~~was~~ obviously flapped slower than a Virginia Rail or Sora. Bird was flushed at about 30 feet.

Similar species and how eliminated: see above. In size the bird was easily larger than a Virginia Rail and about the size of a halfgrown pheasant.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Good: bird was in south with sun in the east. The light was fairly good. Bird was flushed, <sup>flew</sup> about 35-40 yards, seen with unaided eye.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen the Virginia Rail on numerous occasions in flight. I have also seen Clapper Rail.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbins Field Guide, Pough and Peterson.

How long before field notes made? 1 day this form completed? 1 day

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Joe Schaufenbuel