

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? King rail How many? 1Location? Ventura Marsh, N side, 1 mile W of Ventura, Hancock CountyType of habitat? brome in uplands 30 feet from marshWhen? date(s): May 11, 1984 time: 11:00 A.M. toWho? your name and address: James L. Hansen, 1024 S. 8th St., Clear Lake, Iowa 50428others with you: Ronald D. Andrews, Clear Lakeothers before or after you: none

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.

It was a large, rusty-colored rail-shaped bird; it appeared to be nearly as large as a green-backed heron. We flushed the bird as we were walking along the edge of the marsh. It flew about 50 yards into the cattails in the marsh.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Other rails ~~are~~ in the area are much smaller.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

sunny, sun behind us
distance: about 40' from us when it flushed
naked eye

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen several King rails in Florida

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? none made this form completed? 20 days

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