

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Yellow Rail 2. Number: 2
  3. Location Doolittle Prairie, North of Ames & South of Story City, Story County, Iowa
  4. Date: 28 April 1985 5. Time Bird seen: bird 1; abt 11 am CDST: bird 2 abt 11:30 CDS to \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):  
(both birds) In flight: general appearance of Sora, but smaller; sora-like yellow bill; much orangish or orange buff on head and neck area; rest of bird brown to dark brown with a prominent white squarish patch on the inner, trailing edge of each wing. Flushed first bird 4 times; second bird twice.
  7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
  8. Description of behavior:
  9. Habitat - general: marshy prairie  
specific: first Bird from area mowed last fall; second bird from pothole in recently burned area.
  0. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
Sora - doesn't have the white patch on the inside edge of the hind wing.
  1. Distance (how measured)? less than 25 feet at closest to either. Optical equipment: 7 X 35 binoculars & some times none.
  3. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
clear. 1st bird went to our west, then to our east. 2nd bird among us to S W.
  4. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
never seen before. Seen Sora many times.
  5. Other observers: Jim Dinsmore, Steve Dinsmore, George Brown, Gordon Brown
  6. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
  7. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
  8. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
  9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
notes hlf hour after seeing second bird.
- Signature Carl W. Martens Address: 1120 Marston  
Ames, Iowa 50010
- Date: 26 May 1985 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_