

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? King Rail How many? 1Location? Dookittle Prairie, Story Co.Type of habitat? flushed from Upland burned prairie - flew to shortgrass marshWhen? date(s): May 6, 1983 time: 7:30 AM to 7:31 AMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr, Amesothers with you: Joe Schaufenbuel, Amesothers 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.

Very large bird - 16-17" long
 very rail-like - when it flushed, it dangled its legs behind
 it like other rails
 very slow take-off, heavy wingbeats.
 bill - rather long and decurved - reddish color not noticeable
 under-tail - detected some black and white bands - faint
 back and wings - appeared dark except for a little rust
 color on forewing.
 legs - light in color and dangled behind bird when it flew.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Least Bittern - no rusty wing patches, decurved bill
 other rails - large size, heavier bill

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No.If yes, explain: _____

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

~~sky~~ sky was cloudy, but lighting was ok.
 bird flushed about 6-7 feet away - on other side of a small bush
 used Bushnell 7x35 wide angle binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw 1 June 2, 1982 in C. IowaReferences and persons consulted before writing description: Roger Tory Peterson "Birds of E. N. America"How long before field notes made? none made this form completed? 3 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240