

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? King Rail How many? 1

Location? Otter Creek M.

Type of Habitat? Marsh with drainage ditches

When? date(s): 10 May 1986 1987 time: 8:10 to 8:20

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Keat, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA

Others with you: Francis Moore, Dick Tetraolt

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

We were playing King Rail tape as we returned east on the north dike at Otter Creek Marsh. Just before reaching the parking lot at the east end of the north dike Francis heard a response that sounded like tape. We heard the bird respond about 5 times, sometimes with a deeper note than the tape, but also like the tape. The bird was within 20 feet of us, but we did not see it.

Similar species; how eliminated: We also heard Virginia rails and played Virginia rail tapes. The pitch was lower than a Virginia Rail voice.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Not seen.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have heard several

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? none this form completed? 14 hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).