

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? King Rail How many? 1Location? Prairie Rail Trail County Park, Story CountyType of habitat? along a drainage ditch surrounded by open croplandWhen? date(s): 22 May, 1985 time: 3:30 PM to 3:40 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010others with you: Kraig Downer, Ames

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

An extremely large rail as evidenced by the fairly long legs, chunky body, fairly long neck, long decurved bill, and by the habit of flicking its tail.

Upperparts were almost black in color.

The breast was a deep rusty color.

The lower belly and flanks were dark with some faint light barring.

The undertail was white.

Legs dark and fairly long.

Bill was dark and slightly decurved.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Eliminated from other rails by size, longer bill and rusty underparts.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Light was good - mid-day with sun overhead and no clouds.  
Estimated distance of 25-30 feet. No optical equipment used.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen 2 King Rails in Iowa

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NBS Field Guide to Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? 11 days

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