

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Yellow Rail How many? 1Location? W. Ames, Ia.Type of habitat? found grounded after storm on sheltered side of apt. building - on walk way.When? date(s): April 13, 1983 time: 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.Who? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr Ames, Ia 50010others with you: Kraig Downs, Jim + Mark Dinsmore

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.

white wing patches very prominent
small bird - 4-5bill - yellow with black tipeye - reddish colorbody was a yellow color with some white on tips of feathers.back - yellow with black on feather tips. - white spots alsotail - short - yellow + black above - faint black barring belowbreast - yellowbelly - alternating yellow + black bars.undertail - white and black bars alternatinglegs - yellow-green in color - long compared to size of birdfeet - black color with long toes - very rail-like.voice - birds uttered a few chirps or ticks while held.behavior - when released the bird ran fast to thick cover and set down - flew once for a distance of about 10-12 feet.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Sora - no white wing patch and larger in size.
Virginia Rail - longer bill and darker color.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

bird held in hand - photographedPrevious experience with species and similar ones: noneReferences and persons consulted before writing description: Roger Tory Peterson's - "Guide to Birds of E. America"How long before field notes made? 12 hours this form completed? 12 hours

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