

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? yellow rail How many? 1Location? McIntosh Wildlife Area, 1 mi. E of Ventura, Cerro Gordo CountyType of habitat? brome uplandsWhen? date(s): May 14 1984 time: 10:15^{A.M.} toWho? your name and address: James L. Hansen, 1024 S. 8th St., Clear Lake, Iowa 50428others with you: Ronald D. Andrews, Clear Lakeothers before or after you: none

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.

Was flushed while we were rope-dragging for nests.

It was yellow-tan with white wing patches.

It flew ^{weakly} about 75', landed, and could not be reflushed.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Sora, Virginia rail
wing patches.

— Both too dark and lack white

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain: —

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

flushed ~~at~~ ^{sun behind us} from ~~the~~ 15' away, as judged by length of 40' rope drag.
no optical equipment.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

This is the ^{fourth} ~~third~~ yellow rail I've ever seen; saw several soras
References and persons consulted before writing description:How long before field notes made? none made this form completed? 17 days

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