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Documentation for King Rail

June 13, 1986

Location approximately one mile south of Forney's Lake, Fremont Co. along L 44 east of Crystal Lake which is just east of I-29.

At 6:45 am a chicken-sized bird flew from the road into grass in the ditch. About a minute later we saw a King Rail walking across the road behind us approximately 50 ft. It then flew about 75 ft into a grassy field. We played a king rail tape and it answered with clucks which appeared to be coming from the grass about 20 ft away from us.

We then left the area and returned at 7:15 a.m. We played a tape and it walked across the road in front of us. It also called again.

Description: Large rail with a long bill, stout at base, dark upper mandible, light lower mandible. It had a rusty wash on neck, buffy on face and under neck, dark brown on top of head. The sides and flanks had dark vertical barring. White undertail coverts had black horizontal streaking.

Length of sighting: approximately two minutes.

Binoculars used: 9 x 25 Nikon

Other observers: Tanya Bray and Barb Wilson