

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Yellow Rail How many? 1Location? Muskroot S. Jones Co IAType of habitat? MarshWhen? date(s): 1 May 1982 time: 7:10 Am^(est) to 5-10 secondsWho? your name and address: T.H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City IA 52240others with you: Carl Bendorf, Tom Stardt, Jones Huntingtonothers 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.

Carl called out "yellow rail" and I looked up to see a small rail flying away from us (we were wading through marsh to flush birds). Size appeared smaller than Sora seen later. Overall color appeared light brown to tan. Wide rounded wings and small body. White patches on trailing edge of secondaries were clearly seen. Bird dropped into marsh (water a few inches deep) and was not seen again.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Sora: white wing patches, smaller, lighter tan color

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

~~Sight~~ behind us. About 20 yds (est). 8x40 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen several in Iowa

References and persons consulted before writing description: others in group.

How long before field notes made? ~~# hrs~~ n.a. this form completed? 11 hrs.

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