

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? yellow rail How many? 1Location? Ventura Marsh, north side, 1 mile W of Ventura, Hancock CountyType of habitat? uplands with a mixture of switchgrass and brome, <sup>30'</sup> ~~10'~~ from marshWhen? date(s): May 9, 1984 time: 10:30 A.M. toWho? your name and address: James L. Hansen, 1024 South 8th St., Clear Lake, Iowa 50428others with you: 1 person who did not see the birdothers 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.

a small (sora-size) <sup>rail</sup> ~~sora~~, yellow-tan in color, with white patches on the wings

We flushed the bird while were rope-dragging for nests. It flew weakly about 60 feet and dropped back into the grass. I was not able to flush it again by walking to the place where it landed.

Similar species and how eliminated:

sora, Virginia rail — Both are darker and lack white wing patches

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? —If yes, explain: —

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

sunny, sun at angle from behind me  
flushed 20 feet from me (rope-drag is 40' long)  
no optical equipment

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw 1 Virginia rail and several soras on the same day.  
Have seen the species twice before (one of which was a live bird in hand).

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? none made this form completed? 22 days

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