

What species? YELLOW RAIL How many? 1Location? NEAR CONE MARSH, LOUISA COUNTYType of habitat? TALL GRASS FIELD - UPLANDWhen? date(s): 7 MAY 1989 time: 6:15 AM to _____Who? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LANGVIEW KNOLL, RR#6, IOWA CITY, 52240

others with you: _____

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.

I WAS AT THE EAST-WEST DIKE PARKING LOT OF CONE MARSH WAITING FOR OTHER BIRDERS TO ARRIVE, SO WE COULD ALL WALK THE DIKE TOGETHER & LOOK FOR THE RAILS AND BITTERNS WHICH HAD BEEN THERE ALL WEEK. SO, WHILE WAITING, I CHECKED THE UPLAND TALL GRASS FIELD ADJACENT TO THE PARKING LOT (ON S. & W) FOR SPARROWS AND SEDGE WREN. I HADN'T WALKED INTO THE FIELD MORE THAN 50 YARDS, WHEN A SMALL (SMALLER THAN SORA OR VIRGINIA) RAIL FLUSHED AND FLEW DIRECTLY AWAY FROM ME. IT WAS LIGHTER IN GENERAL COLOR THAN A SORA OR VIRGINIA. HOWEVER, THE MOST ATTENTION GRABBING FEATURE WAS THE LARGE WHITE WING PATCHES ON THE TRAILING WING. A FEW YARDS FARTHER, ANOTHER RAIL FLUSHED. IN COMPARISON TO THE FIRST BIRD IT WAS

① SOMEWHAT LARGER - ② DARKER ③ HAD NO WHITE WING PATCHES. IT FLEW DIRECTLY AWAY & I COULD NOT GET A RUMP COLOR AND COULD NOT SEE BILL. I FELT IT WAS A SORA OR VIRGINIA. WHEN THE OTHER BIRDERS ARRIVED A LITTLE LATER, WE TRIED TO FLUSH THE FIRST RAIL AGAIN AND COULD NOT DO SO.

Similar species and how eliminated:

SORA + VIRGINIA - DARKER, LARGER, & NO WHITE WING PATCH - TRAILING EDGEDid any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

EARLY MORNING - SUN JUST UP - CLEAR - LOOKING SOUTH AT FLYING BIRD WITH 9X36 BINOCULARS.Previous experience with species and similar ones: SEEN ONCE 15 YEARS AGO ON MISSISSIPPIReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NONE GULF COASTHow long before field notes made? IMMEDIATE this form completed? 12 HOURS

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240