

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Yellow Rail How many? one

Location? Doolittle Prairie, Story County

Type of habitat? wet prairie

When? date(s): 7 May 1986 time: 3:20 PM to CDST

Who? your name and address: Paul Martsching 1120 Marston Ames, Iowa

others with you: —

others before or after you: Mayfield saw one there several days earlier.

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.

rail-shape & beak like Sora - but smaller & ^{lighter} brown.
yellow beak. rectangular white patch on trailing edge of wing next to body.

Similar species and how eliminated: Sora does not have white patches on top side of wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? —

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
seen for about 20 seconds at range of 20-50 feet.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw two at same place last spring

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 5 minutes this form completed? 4 hours

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