

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? KING RAIL How many? 2 ADULT, 2 CHICKSLocation? 3.6 MILES NW HURSTVILLE (JACKSON Co)Type of habitat? MARSHWhen? date(s): 7/7/87 time: 7:05 PM to 7:45 PMWho? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, RR#6, IOWA CITYothers with you: C. KNIGHT, C. THOMPSON, HUNTINGTON, CORDELL, SANDROCK

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.

THIS RAIL LIKE BIRD WAS THE SIZE OF A SMALL CHICKEN (ADULT) AND THE CHICKS WERE ABOUT HALF THE ADULT SIZE. ADULT HAD LONG BILL WHICH APPEARED GRAY-BLUE, EXCEPT IN CERTAIN LIGHT HAD A DULL REDDISH COLOR IN PARTS. LENGTH WAS GREATER THAN THE HEAD WIDTH. HEAD WAS BROWN, DARK BROWN ON THE TOP OF HEAD & LIGHT BROWN LINES ABOVE EYES. EYES WERE DARK, WITH A ^{LIGHT} RING IN LOWER HALF. THROAT WAS WHITE TO BEIGE, DEPENDING ON LIGHT. UPPER BREAST WAS RED-BROWN AND FLANKS AND LOWER BELLY WERE BARRED LIGHT & DARK BROWN VERTICALLY. LEGS WERE LONG & APPEARED GRAY. BACK WAS BROWN WITH PROMINENT LIGHT FEATHER EDGINGS. FOLDED WING WAS BROWN, WITH SOME FEATHER EDGING ALSO. TAIL WAS QUITE SHORT. ~~THE~~ ONE BIRD WAS HEARD TO MAKE A LOUD & RAUCOUS CALL ONE TIME.

THE CHICKS WERE BLACK & FLUFFY WITH DARK EYE & DARK BILL WHICH WAS RELATIVELY SHORTER THAN ADULT'S.

Similar species and how eliminated:

VIRGINIA RAIL - SIZE AND BROWN SIDE OF HEAD

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

FAIR, SUN LOW. 9x36 BINOCULARS AT 20-30 FEET AND LOOK THROUGH SCOPE.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: TWICE BRIEFLYReferences and persons consulted before writing description: PETERSON GUIDE + NAT'L GLOBHow long before field notes made? 5 MINS. this form completed? 2 1/2 HOURS

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