

KING RAIL

June 13, 1986

6:45 am

7:15 - 7:17 a.m.

County Road L44 between Bartlett and Forneys Lake

Description:

A chicken-sized bird with a long, slightly decurved bill which was stout at the base and tapering toward tip. The upper mandible was dark gray and the lower, yellowish. Crown was dark brown and the face buffy with no gray. Back feathers were reddish brown with dark brown centers. Breast and sides of breast were rusty. Flanks were vertically barred with black and white. The undertail coverts were white with the center having horizontal black barring. The legs were dark.

Behavior:

When first seen the bird walked along the edge of road and disappeared into the tall grass. It then crossed the road, and flew approximately 50' to the edge of a corn field. We played a tape of King Rail and it responded with a series of clucks or chucks. At 7:15 we returned to the spot, played the tape, and the King Rail again walked out onto the road. He wandered down the road along the edge, calling occasionally before finally entering the tall grass.

Distance: At closest point: 50'

Equipment: 7 x 26 Binoculars

Others: Babs Padelford  
Barbara Wilson

T. Bray  
RC