

King Rail - 1

7:15am, June 13, 1986

Forney's Lake, Fremont County

Description: A good-sized bird, not pheasant-sized but chicken-size anyway. Bill long, stout, slightly decurved ~~at~~ near tip. Tip & top of upper mandible, are black. Lower mandible & base of upper mandible dull orange. Head dull gray-brown, with no definite gray patch. Short white line above lores. Gray area behind eye. Crown dark. Throat buffy. Breast warm reddish brown. Belly paler. Flanks barred white & black. Back reddish brown streaked with black. Under tail coverts white, with some black barring. Legs long, stout, & a hard-to-describe brownish gray.

Behavior: Tanya played the King Rail song on the tape & this thing emerged from the roadside vegetation. It walked about on the road 60' from us for what seemed like a long time - ~~2~~<sup>2</sup> minutes? It held its tail cocked, & twitched it up & down often. ~~As~~ As it called it opened the whole of that long bill. Gave a series of harsh clucks.

Conditions: 7:15am. Bird south of us on the road, 60' away. 8x binoculars. Viewing conditions good. ~~Tanya~~ Tanya Bray & Babo Padelford & I agreed on the identification. They had found the bird 10 minutes before & brought me to see it. Habitat was cultivated fields, 2 large road ditches, & rail road tracks, between Forney's & Crystal lakes.

Written July 16 from notes taken at the time.

- Barb Wilson

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