

Purple Gallinule

7 May 1964

backwater west of Cone Marsh, Louisa Co., IA

F.W. Kent, T.H. Kent

Kent 1964, P-0400

Record Number: 93-CS

Classification: A-P

PHOTOGRAPH

F. W. Kent, P-0400, (IBL 34:50)

REFERENCES

Kent, F.W. 1964. A Purple Gallinule in Iowa. IBL 34:50-51.

Photograph: IBL 34:50 (P-0400)

VOTE: 5 A-P

A-P, The color photo shows the purple head, neck, and body contrasting with browner back and wings. In comparison with Common Morehen, the bird has a rather straight forehead and lacks white along the side of the wing. The forehead looks white rather than light blue as it should. I don't understand the white feathers beneath the tail. Undertail coverts should be white, but I would not expect to see them separate from the tail or be evident at the angle of the photo. /thk

NA, Could Ayres and Ayres still provide some information? Apparently Dinsmore/Graham had communication with them and were satisfied enough to cite the record./ wrs

Hold my vote till I get back to Ames. I think I kept letter./
jjd



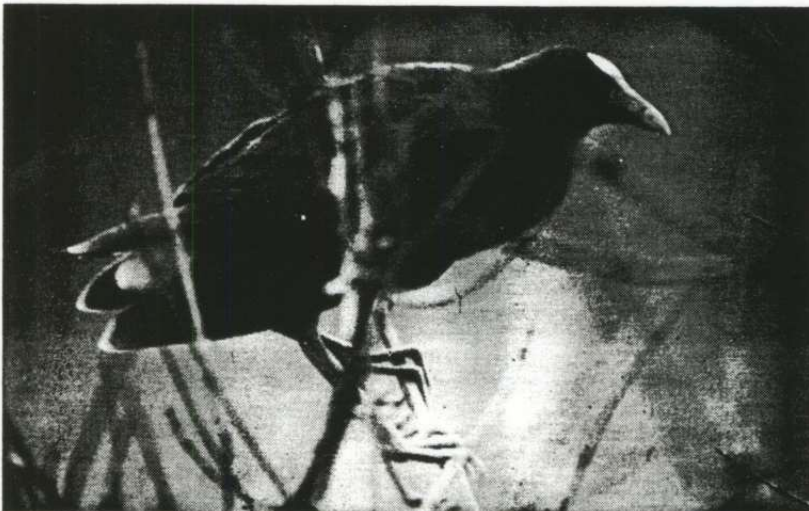
Purple Gallinule
NW, Louisa Co., IA
7 May 1964 F. W. Kent

P-0400

93-C5

223-1111-223

Kent, F. W. 1964. A Purple Gallinule in Iowa. IBL 34:50-51.



PURPLE GALLINULE

Photo by F. W. Kent

A Purple Gallinule in Iowa—On May 7 Tom Kent, John Brouhard and I made a morning trip some 20 miles south of Iowa City to an area which includes the Conesville Marsh and some oxbows of the Iowa River. In the first of the oxbows we had a very fine view of a pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons, the male in very fine plumage, and at the next one as we crossed a causeway to get into some fine warbler territory Tom spotted a bird in the water at some distance and said it looked like a gallinule (common). I picked it up with my binoculars briefly as it went behind some brush and quickly, and perhaps a bit jokingly said it was a Purple Gallinule. Afterwards I realized that I had seen the red bill but no white on the sides. So Tom went off through the poison ivy and brush and soon called back that I was right. So I went back to the car for my photographic equipment and began taking pictures as soon as in range in case it should take off, but it was quite unconcerned and we got close enough for some full size color shots (with telescope combination), having more trouble shooting through the branches of the brush in which it had perched (see picture). So we all had a fine view of the bird, noticing its agility in climbing in the brush, the white patch on the forehead with bit of blue color, the red-orange bill with yellow tip, and the rich purple of neck and shoulders. The next day John took a friend back and found it in the same area.

DuMont puts it his hypothetical list and questions the early Allen record. Martin Grant's most recent list of Iowa birds does not include it. In recent issue of the *Auk*, 81-2, two nesting records are given, one in central Ohio and the other in southern Illinois as new northern limits for breeding.

Bent cites many scattered records of singles mostly in eastern U.S., even into Ontario. F. W. KENT, 302 Richards St., Iowa City.