

Black Rail  
13 May 1961  
Cone Marsh, Louisa Co., IA  
\*T. H. Kent  
IBL 31:65-68

Record Number: 81-FR  
Classification: A-D

NOTES

F. W. Kent, 13 May 1961

T. H. Kent, 21 Feb 1981

REFERENCE

Field Reports: IBL 31:65-68.

VOTE (1981): 5-III, 1-III.5, 1-abstain

abstain, others should judge whether this retrospective data is adequate.

III, observed by competent observer.

III, data good but few; date is strange. Accepted despite 20-year lag. between obs. and recorded data (but with reservations because of this). Reliability of observer also open to question.

III.5, Single observer record reported as second hand note. Detailed report written 20 years after sighting. Bird flushed 50' ahead of observer in short grass near Cone Marsh in May. Extensive attempts to find bird by other observers just after sighting were futile.

III, Although observer well known, and the bird appears to have been a rail, possibility of confusion remains -- was light good? I am prepared to accept based on observer reputation alone, even though details sketchy.

REVOTE (at meeting, 8 May 1982): no change in vote

Brown, W. H. 1961. General notes reports. Iowa Bird Life 31:65-68

**Hawks, Rails.** On June 25 a Turkey Vulture was banded by Petersen near Monticello - a second escaped. A Peregrine Falcon preening in a field at Conesville was watched by Kent for twenty minutes. Another was seen by Petersen on April 30 at Big Marsh (Parkersburg). A flock of ten Broadwings was seen there the same day. One of the rarest species in this part of the country is the Black Rail. On May 13, Dr. Tom Kent flushed one in a small marsh area and watched it fly off in front of him for fifty feet. One Common Gallinule was seen at Fisher's Lake, and another at Goose Lake near Jewell.

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Kent, F. W. May 13, 1961 (personal records)

"Black Rail at Conesville - Tom went <sup>in</sup> at corner seep (old house) to look for snipe (and found one) but also flushed what he was sure was Black Rail. We all went back but no response."

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Kent, T. H. 21 Feb 1981 (personal note)

"Tom Morrissey, F. W. Kent and I were on a typical all day May birding trip on May 13, 1961. I had boots on so I went into the spring fed marshy area (shallow water, short grass and hummocks) on the west side of Cone M. near where the road bends slightly ( $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of the middle dike) to flush a snipe. After walking a short distance into the wet area a small black rail-like bird flushed a short distance ahead of me and fluttered for 50 feet or so and dropped into the grass. I rushed to the spot and tramped the entire area but raised no bird. The three of us went back with a rope we had in the car and dragged the area with no luck. I was impressed with the small size (sparrow sized), all black color (I don't think I saw any of the white spots or rusty neck), and clumsy flight. There were no white patches on the wing and the bird was much smaller than the Yellow Rails seen in this area some years later."

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