

Yellow Rail  
13 Jul 1982  
Union Slough NWR, Kossuth Co., IA  
\*Carol Thompson  
IBL 53:36

Record Number: 82-32  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Carol Thompson

REFERENCE

Records Committee: IBL 53:36

VOTE: 4-III, 3-IV

IV, I'm not convinced it isn't an immature Sora.

III, Good observer. Identification should be possible without seeing wings.

IV, not enough details.

III, prob OK but not very detailed.

IV, Need wing patches in Jul. -- there is little size difference with Sora.

III, Appears to satisfactorily eliminate imm. Sora or a possible shorebird.

III, Small size, back streaking and yellow coloration sounds of this species.

REVOTE (at meeting, 23 April 1983): no change

## Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: yellow rail, Coturnicops naevifrons

DATE SEEN: 13 July 1982

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Union Slough NWR, Kossuth Co.

OBSERVERS: Carol Thompson

DATE OF REVIEW: 23 April 1983

METHOD OF REVIEW: mail vote, followed by discussion + revote.

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: IV

## COMMENTS:

The committee regretfully classified this record as a IV (it would have been the first summer record for the state), for the following reasons: (1) lack of detail required for such a significant record and (2) the time span between the observation and its documentation.

- M. Newton

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

## Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

82-32

What species? Yellow Rail How many? 1Location? Union SloughType of habitat? MarshWhen? date(s): 7/13/82 time: 10 am to Who? your name and address: Carol Thompson 617 S. Johnson I. C.others with you: Noothers 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.

A small very yellowish-colored rail, somewhat fuzzy looking. Distinct, black stripes on back. Bill darker than body color. The bird did not fly so I did not see wing pattern.

Bird observed from my car which was parked on the south side of B14. I had the scope on the window and was observing other species when the bird walked out of the reeds, stood just near the edge of them on some mud for about 60 seconds then went back into the reeds.

Similar species and how eliminated: Immature Sora - I would not expect the Sora to be as small or as yellow. The bill should have been more yellow.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Somewhat overcast but overall good lighting, 25 yards (guess),  
Bushnell Spacemaster 20-45x.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: New bird

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 7/14 this form completed? 12/9  
typed by T. Kent from handwritten form.

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

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