

Yellow Rail

21 Sep 1980

Big Marsh, Butler Co., IA

*J. Hanson

number assigned, not reviewed; P-0008, IBL 51:25, 27

Record Number: 80-24
Classification:

DOCUMENTATION

James L. Hansen

PHOTOGRAPHS

James L. Hansen, P-0008

REFERENCE

Field Reports: IBL 51:25, 27

VOTE: not reviewed.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

80-24
accepted by Field Reports Ed. & C.
excellent photos received T.C.

1. Species yellow rail 2. Number one
3. Location Big Marsh Wildlife Area, 6 mi. N of Parkersburg, Butler County, Iowa
4. Date: September 21, 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Similar to a sora in shape, but slightly smaller; buffy breast and sides of head, top of head and back dark brown with buffy streaks and white flecks, large white patches on wings (secondaries)

The bird was caught alive by a dog, dried off, photographed, and released, apparently unharmed.

7. Description of voice, if heard: Bird was silent.

8. Description of behavior: when released it did not fly, but instead walked into dense, flooded, tall grass.

9. Habitat - general: flooded moist soil plants, primarily grasses and smartweed

specific: I don't know; the bird was in a box in a car when I first saw it.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
none

11. Distance (how measured)?

0 (in hand)

12. Optical equipment:

none

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

sunny

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

first of this species I have seen; I have seen a few Virginia rails and many soras

15. Other observers:

Carl Priebe, Iowa Conservation Commission

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Carl Priebe

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Birds of North America, Robbins et al.

Substantiated the identification that was made without the book.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 4 months

Signature: James L. Hansen Address: 1024 South 8th Street

Date: January 26, 1981 City, State: Clear Lake, Iowa 50428