

RULED NOT ADMISSABLE FOR FIRST STATE RECORD DUE TO BEING SOUND REPORT

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD REPORT

CFO-ORC FILE NO. N-17-59

RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD

NEW STATE RECORD

ACCEPTED

REJECTED

Species: BLACK RAIL

Laterallus jamaicensis

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 11, 18 and 25 June, 1975 Time Bird <sup>Heard</sup> ~~Sawn~~: 0900 to 1100

Locality: R5LW, T22S, NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Sec 34

Nearest Town: FORT LYON (1.5 mi. ENE) County: BENT

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

None

Optical Equipment: Norelco Cassette Recorder

If photographed, type of equipment used: ''

Conditions: Good (Yellow-bellied Blackbird, Redwing, Black-bellied Yellowthroat)

Distance from bird (how measured): Estimated 40-4 meters (Reached at 10-15 meters)

Number of Birds <sup>Heard</sup> ~~Sawn~~: 1 Sex: unk Plumage: int

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

- 11 June - Heard 3 repetitions of Black Rail advertising call (Kellogs) - would not respond further.
- 18 June - Heard 100 meters east of 11 June location - first heard due to disturbance of water - further responses evoked by recorded Black Rail advertising call. Recorder drove rail to 4 meters before retracting over again.
- 25 June - Heard 20 meters east of 18 June location - 2 repetitions evoked after 100m rail playback from tape recorder

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Saw nothing more than water ripples on retreat of rail on 18 June.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: "Kweek kikee-doo" at 2.5 sec intervals continuously for 15 sec - 80 sec time periods - when calls stopped. playback of recording of black rail from "Western Bird songs" Peterson series played at 1 call ("kikee-doo") every 1 sec would cause the rail to begin another series - calls near the end began to lower in pitch. Called from vegetation of marsh area.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Spring fed marsh - water level in area of black rail location varies in depth from mud (0") to 10". Average depth 1-2". Veg.: Typha angustifolia 60%, Elymus spp 30% Syrphium, Selinum spp; Poa spp; Polygonum spp, Lemna minor etc 10%. Density (veg to water area) 50:50 (excl. Beaver activity in area caused several areas to be open but the rail was never there). Elevation 3850 heard in these areas.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Call recognition alone for birds known in Marsh habitats.

( If necessary for confirmation, recording of 18 June can be duplicated and sent to you for consultation. )

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Currently involved in M-S. research on rail distribution in Colo. for Colo. Division of Wildlife.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Tape recording from "Western Bird songs" by Kellogg - Peterson series  
"Birds of North America" by Roblin et al.

This report was written from notes made during  after observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: HERMAN JOHN GRIESE SIGNATURE: Herman J Gries DATE: 21 August 1978  
Street Address: Dept of Fish and Wildlife Bio, CSU Town and State:  Ft. Collins Colo. ZIP: 80504

Return to: ~~JACK REDDALE - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110~~

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