

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

89-15A

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: YELLOW RAIL, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 5
3. Locality: Louisiana: SOUTH OF MORSE Parish: ACADIA
HWY 91 SOUTH OF MORSE RICE FIELD
4. Date(s) when seen: 11 NOV. 1988
5. Times of day when seen: 12:00 - 12:30 PM
6. Reporting observer and address:
GWEN SMALLEY 88 EGRET ST. NO. LA. 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
DAVID MUTH, RICHARD JEFFERS
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): GOOD - SUN ABOVE AND TO OUR BACKS
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
ZEISS 10x40
11. Distance to bird: 50 YARDS AND LESS, 1 BIRD WAS 15 FEET
12. Duration of observation: 5-10 SEC.
13. Habitat (general and specific): RICE FIELD
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): BIRDS WERE BEING FLUSHED FROM RICE FIELDS WHILE RICE WAS BEING CUT.
LONG SLOW WEAK FLIGHTS
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):



SMALL DARK BROWN BIRD ABOUT 6-8 INCHES
BILL SMALL SHORT AND YELLOW, SMALLER THAN
BILL OF SORA AND NOT AS BRIGHT YELLOW. SORAS WERE
SEEN ALSO. FACE BUFFY NOT BLACK AS SORAS,
BACK AND WINGS BROWN STREAKED, WHITE WING PATCHES
ON SECONDARIES CONSPICUOUS.

16. Voice: *NONE*

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

SORA - LARGER BRIGHTER BILL, BLACK ON FACE + THROAT
NO WHITE ON SECONDARIES. SORAS WERE SEEN TOO.
VIRGINIA - LITTLE LARGER, DARKER + MUCH LONGER BILL,
NO WHITE ON SECONDARIES. VIRGINIAS ALSO SEEN.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

NO.

19. Previous experience with this species:

*1984 - ABOUT 6 WERE SEEN
AT ANAHUAC, NWR, TEXAS*

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation; *GEO*

b) after observation:

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation; notes made after observation; _____ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? *YES*. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter:



24. Date and time of writing this account:

11 NOV 1988 9:00 PM

L. O. S. Bird Records Committee

Report Form

Name-- Yellow Rail, Coturnicops noveboracencensis

Number-- 5-15

Locality-- Southeast of jct. 1115 and 91, south of Morse,
Acadia Par., La.

Date-- Nov. 11, 1988

Time-- 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Reporting Observer-- David P. Muth
1110 Robert St.
N.O.LA 70115

Other Observers-- Gwen Smalley, Richard Jeffers

Light-- Very good. Clear skies, field to our north.

Optics-- Zeiss 10x40

Distance-- From 12 feet to 50 yards

Duration-- 5-30 seconds, depending upon bird.

Habitat-- Damp rice field, some sections muddy, but no
standing water.

Behaviour-- Birds escaped from combine as it mowed the last narrow strips of the field. A few flew, but others ran through the furrows, or did both. One individual froze in the shadow of a mud lump and gave us a thirty second study before it ran back into the un-cut rice. Because some birds flushed from or ran out of the field, and others flushed and then returned to the uncut rice, while other suspicious-looking rails ran erratically about, no exact count was possible. Five is an absolute minimum, since that many were seen escaping from the field. Other birds flushing included 10-20 Virginia Rails, one King, 2-5 Soras, 10 Snipe, one Sedge Wren, and two Le Conte's Sparrows.

Description-- A small to medium rail. Slightly smaller than Sora, noticeably shorter and more compact than Virginia. Bill, stubby, chicken-like, dull yellow. Back was bright buffy with dark lengthwise stripes and white crossbars. Undersides were buffy fading to a white belly, with typical rail-like dark bars on flanks. Upper surface of secondaries white, visible in flight. Extent of white varied from individual to individual, some showing very little. Molt? Leg color not noted.

Voice-- not heard

Similar Species-- Virginia has long bill etc.
Sora, adult has black face, chin, and
throat. Juvenile has duller back and face, no white in
secondaries.

Photos-- None.

Previous experience-- None.

Aids-- Nat'l. Geo. after sighting.

This description written from notes made a few days later.

Are you positive of your i.d.?-- Yup.

Signature--

David P. Mull
4.25.89