

Species: King Rail (Vernacular Name) Rallus elegans (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): June 12, 13, 15, 19-1976 Time Bird Seen: twice 7:30 am to twice 3 to 4:30  
 Locality: CF & 2 lakes about 7 miles south of Pueblo, Res No 3  
 Nearest Town: Pueblo County: Pueblo

Other observers who independently identified this bird: about 25 people have  

| NAME                       | ADDRESS                | TELEPHONE     |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Cassidy C. Bruffeth</u> | <u>1217 Morrison</u>   | <u>561-22</u> |
| <u>Jeff C. Cigler</u>      | <u>36 Robertson Rd</u> | <u>564-09</u> |
| <u>Carl Ferron</u>         | <u>36 Robertson Rd</u> | <u>542-55</u> |

Optical Equipment: 2 X 35 binoculars  
 If photographed, type of equipment used: 4 people photographed it - no details  
 Light Conditions: almost always good  
 Distance from bird (how measured): from an close at 10 feet several times  
- 30 feet sometimes - up to 100 feet or farther -

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♂ ? Plumage: adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: Pretty much typical rail - size of Bantam Chicken - comparable in size to Cinnamon teal next to it first time - coarse musc longer legs and bill - worked along edges of marsh, cat tail edge of old channel bed - wove in and out thru vegetation - flew short distances on at least 4 occasions

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:

as large or larger than Cinnamon teal next to it first time - long (relatively) greenish legs and toes long short pointed dark rail bill with orange sides - dark crown of head. large dark eye clearly seen several times - very light throat patch rich chestnut neck and breast stripped brown back - chestnut patch of brown on shoulder of wing - clearly seen when flying especially - dark and light barring on flank back of legs - white under tail patch - short pointed upturned tail - typical rail

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

would continuously give the loud pick, pick, pick call after recorded was used to arouse it would answer to Clapper, King, Virginia Rail call but did not imitate other species

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

first out in open along grassy edge of old channel with water - mostly in edge of cattails after that mainly along old stream or channel bed though

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Clapper Rail - Gray - salt marsh coastal bird Virginia Rail - only half size of King Rail - Gray cheeks - King Rail has brown cheeks - King Rail call much louder than Virginia or Sara's - especially the kick or chuck whatever you want to call it.

I spotted the bird first. Carolyn was with me we sat and discussed its outstanding features as it moved not too fast about 50 feet or further up the edge of the old channel feeding as it went then flew across to the cattails to the north of the channel

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

this is probably the 6th King Rail I have seen 2nd for Carolyn - I have seen them and Clappers in Texas, Florida + Georgia since 1972. both species - We had a beautiful King Rail right out in the open at Clove Run, Georgia April 1976 I have seen many Virginia Rails so immediately noticed size difference

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

Birds of North America Golden Press  
Birds of Texas - Peterson - every piece of reference material I could get my hands on just for information

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

CAROLYN E. GRIFFITHS

PRINT NAME: DAVE A GRIFFITHS

SIGNATURE: *Dave Griffiths*

DATE: Jan 24 1976

Street Address: 1717 Morrison Ave

Town and State: Pueblo, Colo

ZIP: 81000

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 14150 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Jack, Carolyn and I couldn't see any sense in filling out a report form

RADC FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD REPORT  
RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☒ NEW STATE RECORD

OFO-ORC FILE NO. N-17-68  
☒ ACCEPTED ☐ REJECTED *JP 11/7/76*  
N-17-68

Species: King Rail Rallus elegans  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 15 June 1976 Time Bird Seen: 1130 to 1215  
Locality: CF&I Lakes  
Nearest Town: Pueblo County: Pueblo

Other observers who independently identified this bird:  
NAME ADDRESS TELEPHONE  
Dave and Carolyn Griffiths(found the bird), Bruce Webb and Jeanne Conry, Mike and  
Pate Moulton, Bruce Bosley,(and with me when I saw it)Steve Larson and Barry Knapp

Optical Equipment: 10 X 50 binoculars  
If photographed, type of equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_  
Light Conditions: Overcast  
Distance from bird (how measured): Minimum estimated distance: 50 feet

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ?(male ?) Plumage: adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:  
The bird was first found by its call as we were playing tapes of Clapper Rail calls.  
The bird was seen walking around in the open and at the edge of the cattail marsh,  
spending much time in the open and calling almost continuously. Twice it flew farther  
in the marsh, but then returned to the edge.

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:

A very large rail(much larger than a Virginia Rail), with a large body, long grayish  
legs, a long neck, small head and long bill. Bill mostly dull yellowish in color,  
dusky along top of upper mandible and tip of bill, mouth lining bright salmon.  
Crown brown, unmarked. Nape and back of neck brownish, with darker streaking. Back  
feathers brown or black, usually with white borders. Flight feathers(as seen when  
folded)black with white borders, shoulder area deep cinnamon. Superciliary line buffy.  
Eye dark brown. Face(mostly cheeks)gray. Throat whitish, not sharply defined.  
Forepart of neck, breast and sides rufous. Belly, flanks and undertail coverts(from  
legs back to tail)dark blackish-brown, with numerous(at least 15)vertical white bars.  
Tail extremely short(barely protruding beyond folded wings), mostly white.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Called about 20/minutes Call a very deep, resonant, guttural(almost bittern-like) tuck, tuck, tuck, etc.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Edge of a large cattail marsh, overgrown with willows along a ridge, with many floating tumbelweeds in a channel of water. We watched from a dry shore at the edge of the marsh.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Only similar rail in Colorado is the Virginia, but this bird was much larger(at least twice the size), and with a much deeper call note, ~~Call~~ Clapper Rail is similar, but much grayer(on wings, breast and face), but is restricted almost entirely to salt-water marshes and is extremely unlikely to be found in Colorado.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen the Virginia Rail a number of times in Colorado, and heard it even more often. I have seen the King Rail only a few times: along the coast of Texas on 26-28 March 1975. I have not seen the Clapper.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?  
Standrd guides supported identification but did not influence thisreport.

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

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews SIGNATURE: Robert Andrews DATE: June 16, 1976  
Street Address: 1390 So Ivy Way Town and State: Denver, Colo. 80224 ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD

☐ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC File No. N-17-68

☒ ACCEPTED ☐ REJECTED *OK 12/2*

Species: KING RAIL

(Vernacular Name)

RALLUS ELEGANS

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 13 JUNE, 1976

Time Bird Seen: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Locality: UPPER C. F. LAKE

Nearest Town: PUEBLO

County: PUEBLO

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

DAVE GRIFFITHS

BRUCE BOSLEY

1704 GROVE ST. BOULDER

MIKE MOULTON

1328 SO. COFFMAN ST. LONGMONT

772-02

Optical Equipment: 7X35 BINOCULARS

If photographed, type of equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Light Conditions: EXCELLENT - BRIGHT SUNSHINE

Distance from bird (how measured): 40 FT. - CAMERA RANGEFINDER

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Plumage: ADULT

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: BIRD WAS NOT AS SECRETIVE AS OTHER RAILS. IT RESPONDED READILY TO A TAPE RECORDING OF ITS VOICE AND OFTEN VENTURED INTO OPEN AREAS. WHEN WE GOT TOO CLOSE IT FLEW SHORT DISTANCES ON 3 OCCASIONS AND HID IN THE GRASS, THOUGH IT WAS READILY LURED OUT DIRECTLY AFTER THESE FLIGHTS.

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:

SIZE - BODY AS BULKY AS, OR BULKIER THAN AMERICAN COOT  
SHAPE - <sup>BUT LONGER</sup> CHUNKY BODY, WITH VERY SHORT TAIL, LONG LEGS, LONG NECK AND SMALL HEAD

BILL - HEAVY AT BASE, Laterally compressed, pointed, JER  
SLIGHTLY CURVED CULMEN. ORANGE WITH BLACKISH  
TIP AND BLACKISH STRIP ON DISTAL PORTION OF  
CULMEN.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  TIMES AS LONG AS HEAD (ROUGHLY).

BACK, ~~AND~~ RUMP AND TAIL - SLATY WITH BUFFY EDGING ON FEATH  
THE OVERALL EFFECT BEING DARK WITH LIGHTER STREAKS  
THIS EFFECT WAS ALSO APPARENT IN ~~TRAILING~~ SECONDARY  
WHEN WINGS EXTENDED.

WINGS, UPPER SIDE - VERY NARROW WHITE STRIP ON EXTREME  
~~LEA~~ LEADING EDGE, RUNNING FROM BODY ALMOST TO BEND,  
BRIGHT RUSTY MIDDLE AND GREATER COVERTS, SLATY  
PRIMARIES, SECONDARIES AS ABOVE

HEAD, NECK, BREAST - RICH BROWN, CREAM SUPERCILIARY LINE AND  
WHITISH THROAT PATCH (NOT STRONGLY DEFINED)  
BELLY, FLANKS - BARRED WITH BLACKISH AND WHITISH, BARRING  
VERY WELL DEFINED

UNDERTAIL COVERTS - WHITISH

LEGS - LONG, BUT COLOR NOT OBSERVED AS BIRD STAYED IN GRASS  
(OVER) THEY DANGLED BELOW BIRD IN FLIGHT

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: CALL - MONOTONOUS SERIES OF HARSH CLICKS, QUITE LOUD. OCCASIONAL HARSH TRILL OR RAPID GROUP OF BLEND. CLICKS. GIVEN WHILE BIRD WALKED THROUGH MARSH GRASS, AND SEEMINGLY ENCOURAGED BY TAPE RECORDING.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

LAKE SIDE MARSH - WILLOWS, SOME CATTAILS AND MANY KINDS OF GRASSES AND SEDGES  $1/2 - 1 1/2$  METER IN HEIGHT

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

CLAPPER RAIL HAS GRAYISH, NOT BROWNISH FOREPARTS AND MUCH LESS STRONGLY DEFINED BARRING ON BELLY AND FLANKS.

VIRGINIA RAIL IS HALF THE SIZE OF THE KING RAIL

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS OR CLAPPER. FAIR AMOUNT OF OBSERVATIONS ON VIRGINIA RAIL.

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

PETERSON AND SINGER WERE CONSULTED TO CONFIRM THE IDENTIFICATION, BUT I DO NOT THINK THAT THEY INFLUENCED THE PLUMAGE DOCUMENTATION. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS ONE TIME WHEN I FAILED TO TAKE PEN AND PAPER INTO THE FIELD.

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

PRINT NAME: PETER MOULTON SIGNATURE: Peter J. Moulton DATE: 13 JUNE, 197

Street Address: 1328 So. COFFMAN ST. #3 Town and State: LONGMONT, CO CO ZIP: 80

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 14450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: King Rail (Vernacular Name) | Rallus elegans (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): June 13, 1976 Time Bird Seen: approx 4 pm to approx 5 p

Locality: C, F & I Reservoir

Nearest Town: Pueblo County: Pueblo

Other observers who identified this bird:

| NAME                           | ADDRESS             | TELEPHONE          |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Dave Griffiths</u>          | <u>Pueblo, CO</u>   | <u>561-2258</u>    |
| <u>Steve Larson</u>            | <u>Mapleton</u>     | <u>Boulder, CO</u> |
| <u>Mike &amp; Pete Moulton</u> | <u>Longmont, CO</u> | <u>772-0283</u>    |

Optical Equipment: Nikon binoculars 8X30 8.5°

Light Conditions: excellent

Distance from Bird (how measured): estimated 8'

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: adult

Overall Appearance and Size: very large rail, quite rusty

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): long, very slight downward curve;

Legs (shape and color): —

Crown and Forehead: darker than face Eye (color): —

Nape: rusty brown Face: rusty Throat: white

Breast and Sides: very rusty

Belly and Flanks: strong barring

Undertail Coverts: white, some streaking

Back: dark brown streaking on oclures

Wings: white leading edge of wing prominent in flight; rust in wings

Underwings: —

Rump: streaked same as back Uppertail Coverts: streaked

Upper Side of Tail: same as rump

Under Side of Tail: white with some darker streaking

Shape of Tail: short, pointed

Voice: answered to tape of King Rail. Twice using same call as tape; most often called with 1 short, repeated notes

Behavior: hid behind screens of tall grass, occasionally walking out in open or flying overhead as it answered tape

Habitat: tall marshy grass at edge of lake

Prior Experience with this Species: None with King Rail; numerous observations of clapper rails

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Rustier and larger than clapper rail; clapper rail does not have white leading edge on wing or as distinct a streaking on flanks

This Report was Written From: Notes made during ✓ after — observation; Memory —

Signed: Narcia Schor Street Address: 4475 N. Broadway #11

Date Prepared: July 9, 1976 Town and State: Boulder, CO ZIP: 80501

Return to: —

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD REPORT  
☐ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☒ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE NO. N-17-68  
☒ ACCEPTED ☐ REJECTED *JR*

Species: KING RAIL

Rallus elegans

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 26 June, 1976 Time Bird Seen: 1325 to 1430

Locality: CF&I Lakes

Nearest Town: Pueblo Colorado

County: Pueblo

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME  
Dave Griffiths

ADDRESS

1717 Morrison Pueblo

TELEPHONE

Mike Moulton

1328 S. Coffman Longmont

772-0283

Pete Moulton

"

"

Optical Equipment: 7-15x35 Zoom Binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: Leica Flex- 35 mm with 400mm lens/125@F

Light Conditions: Good-diffused around bird because of tall Reeds.

Distance from bird (how measured): 27-50 ft. Measured with lens from camera

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Plumage: Adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: The bird was mostly heard and seldom seen. It was seen only when lured with a tape recorder. When the recorder was played, the birds' head would protrude from the cattails; and as quickly as its' head poked out, it would pull its head back in. The bird was very skitterish and would seldom let one see the whole body at one time. The few times the whole bird was able to be observed was when it flew back and forth for a total of four times. After the bird seemed to tire of the tape, it ignored everything and proceeded around the lake, feeding.

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: The very first thing that was noticed was the white eye-stripe that extended from just behind the upper mandible, over the eye, and well past the eye to the back of the head. The second thing that impressed me was the great size of the bird. Since my experience with Rails is limited, this point might be over-emphized. The bird looked much like a Virginia rail, only the King rail appeared somewhere on the order of twice the size of a Virginia rail.--The white throat was prominent as well as the very thick bill. The bill appeared to be a lot more thick than most field guides reveal. Bill color was light yellow and it turned to a darker color toward the tip. Below the white throat, the neck and breast was chestnut. In flight, the bird appeared very light and the overall markings were very distinct.--The barred underparts seemed to extend a long way up the belly. No notes were taken on eye color or leg color; I cannot say what color either is although it appears from photographs that the eye color is dark.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc; The call that was delivered was very harsh. The call was a series of 16 or 17 very rapid 'clicks' followed by a trill. The bird responded to a tape everytime it was played. The bird would give its call about 3 or 4 times after the tape was played, always working its way into the open, whereby, the bird would quickly duck back into the cattails. The tape was again played and the bird would again respond.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: Cattail (Typha latifolia) Marsh with large Sedge and Rush intermingled. Smallest visible plant-.5 cm (Sedge)--Tallest plant-1.5 m (Cattail)/

How were similarly appearing species eliminated? Virginia Rail- Marking strikingly similar-was ruled out due to size. (King Rail much larger)-2x---Clapper Rail-Markings on King Rail were much more pronounced although I have seen no Clapper Rails and I am going by field guide only ( Birds of North Amer.)

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: No prior experience with King Rail. Only a few prior experiences with the Virginia rail.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? Birds of North America- Robbins, Bruun, Zim, Singer. Did not influence this report as I did not use the guide until answering prior question.

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

PRINT NAME: Judd Sundine SIGNATURE: Judd Sundine DATE: 7/28/76  
Street Address: 4305 E. Florida Town and State: Denver, Colo. ZIP: 802

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