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1998-40
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Date: Wed, 10 Feb 1999 10:25:42 -0700**From:** "Brandon K. Percival" <flammowl@juno.com> [Add to Address Book](#)**Subject:** rare bird form**To:** rednot@hotmail.com

CFO-RC-FILE

#: _____

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: _____

Species: Black Rail

Laterallus

jamaicensis

(Common Name)

(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: May 9, 1998.

Number of birds heard: four.

Sex: male(?).

Plumage: adult.

Exact location: Ft. Lyon Marshes.

County: Bent.

Nearest town: Ft.

Lyon.

Length of Observation: five minutes total.

Time(s) of

Observation: after dark, late evening.

Other observers who heard the birds with you: Joey Kellner, Norm Erthal, Chris Wood, Steve Stachowiak, Gene Rutherford, Steve Sheridan.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Many others heard Black Rails at Ft. Lyon during May 1998.

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s) position]:
Dark.

Optical equipment used: ears only.

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted): not sure, though they seemed to be fairly close.

Was the bird photographed: no.
photos? n/a.

If so, have you submitted

Who took the photographs? n/a.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:
The birds were calling from the marshes around Ft. Lyon, Bent County.

The marshes have sedge and cattails.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification): The birds were calling from the marsh floor.

Describe the bird in detail: This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the (bird(s). Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, etc. That were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted: you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes):

The birds were all giving their "ki ki doo" songs. We did not see any of the birds.

Describe the bird's song and calls if heard:

Same as above "ki ki doo". They gave these songs several times while the birders were listening to them.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Nothing sounds like a Black Rail. Their "ki ki doo" sounds are distinctive.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: I have heard and seen Black Rails in Colorado from 1991 on, in Bent and Otero County marshes.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced you identification (during and after observation):
None needed.

This report was made from notes taken during _____, or after X observation, or later from memory_____.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival.

Signature: _____

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Pueblo West, CO 81007-2632
719-547-3722 (e-mail: flamnowl@juno.com)

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CFO-ORC FILE # 1998-40

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

✓ rec'd 11/98
AUDIO TAPE

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

| X |

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): Wed., May 13, 1998

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male ? Plumage: adult

Locality: Fort Lyon marsh, west of Fort Lyon Elevation: 3900'

Nearest town: Fort Lyon Rd HH/Rd 13 County: Bent Co.

Time(s) observed: 0745 - 0830 DST

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 45 min.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

none

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

?

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

full sun, bird moving from shade of cattails into sun through grass

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Swarovski Binoc 8x56

Distance, and how measured: 16-70 ft. est. (16' close focus on binocs)

If photographed, type of equipment and film: na

Who else photographed the bird? ?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): small black-colored rail walking and calling at edge of extensive marsh, weaving in and out of cattail stems, starting from about 60 -70 ft. away and walking closer. Fast-paced, steady gait with occasional pauses.

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

(over)

Smaller than Sora in size, with short legs. Head, breast and upper belly solid dark gray; red eye; small black bill (seemed shaped like vireo's). Rusty-
Description (continued): brown nape patch. Uppers below nape: black with tiny, white spots. Legs appeared fleshy-gray. Lower belly and undertail coverts not observable.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): Calling while walking through cattail marsh and from clumps of grass between me and the cattails. "keh" notes, 3-4 in rapid succession, followed by 1 harsh, louder, lower pitched "chōwe" note : "keh,keh,keh,keh, chōwe"

Called almost constantly during observation. Was able to tape call with small tape recorder (ape enclosed). Rail responded to Cornell Lab tape by moving closer to me but stayed hidden in
Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird. clump of grass 25' away when I replayed his original call.

Edge of extensive cattail marsh area east of Rd. 13, south of Rd. HH. Track parallels marsh, running north and south, with grass 8" tall between track and marsh.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?
Call distinctive

no other rail colored as adult Black Rail.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? first visual sighting, had heard call at night on several occasions, but usually Cornell style (kic,kee
in previous years at Bent's Fort doo) call.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) ^{before} ~~at time of~~ observation: Nat. Geo NA Birds.
b) after observation: same

This report was written from ^{notes} ~~report~~ made during xx, after observation _____ from memory _____

Date and time report was written: May 20, 1998

Reporting observer: Karleen Schofield Signature: Karleen Schofield

Address: 33 Yates St., Denver, Co. 80219
303-936-8661

Mark
Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
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Longmont, Colorado 80504