



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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AUDIO TAPE

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

| x |

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

Species: Black Rail  
(Vernacular Name)Laterallus jamaicensis  
(Scientific Name)Date(s): Wed., May 13, 1998Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male ? Plumage: adultLocality: 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 DSTDuration 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 grassOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Swarovski Binoc 8x56Distance, and how measured: 16-70 ft. est. (16' close focus on binocs)If photographed, type of equipment and film: naWho 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)

**Description (continued):** 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-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 (one 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?

no other rail colored as adult Black Rail.

Call distinctive

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* made during xx, after observation        from memory       

Date and time report was written: May 20, 1998

Reporting observer: Karleen Schofield Signature: Karleen Schofield

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*Mark*  
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