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Corrections or omissions should be called to the attention of the Bibliography Committee: Sally Hoyt Spofford, Chairman, John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton, and Kenneth C. Parkes.

FIELD NOTES

King Rail Found in Newfield, New York: On Sunday April 28, 1974 I observed a road killed marsh bird on Route 13 approximately one mile north of the village of Newfield, New York. Believing the bird to be a Virginia Rail, a species on which I was currently conducting a study, I stopped and retrieved the specimen which was in good condition, although a scavenger, presumably avian, had fed on the internal organs. I immediately realized that it was a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) rather than the smaller but similar appearing Virginia Rail.

The King Rail is a rare breeder in central New York, unreported in the Cayuga Lake Basin since 1969 when one was observed at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (Benning, 1969. *The Kingbird* 19(4):205). The only central New York specimen in the Cornell collection is a male (CU #1632) collected in Tompkins County on November 29, 1901 by H.R. Bristol. The current specimen, a male which will also be deposited with the Cornell University collection, was probably a migrant bird since the nearest suitable habitat is two miles from the site where it was found and its appearance coincided with the arrival locally of a variety of other spring migrants including Least Bitterns and Sora Rails.

The current status of the King Rail in central New York cannot be assessed on the basis of the limited number of observations available; however it seems reasonable to speculate that this species occurs here regularly. Considering the difficulty involved in getting good population estimates (or even good views) of any rail species, the King Rail's status will probably remain a mystery until extensive trapping and banding studies are undertaken on the Rallidae or, at the very least, until more field observers attempt to use taped call playbacks on many of the marshes in this portion of the state.

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