

Note

THIRD RECORD OF A COMMON MOORHEN IN NORTH DAKOTA — A common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), was seen during two visits to a 20 hectare semipermanent wetland in western Wells County, North Dakota on 25 May and 27 May 1982. During each observation, the moorhen swam slowly away through sparse, newly emerged whitetop (*Scolochloa festucacea*) and common cattail (*Typha latifolia*). Color photographs were taken to record this sighting. The second sighting was verified by Dennis Orthmeyer.

The normal range of the common moorhen is southeast of North Dakota. Faanes and Stewart (1982, *Prairie Nat.* 14(3):81-92) list the common moorhen as “hypothetical” in the state. Only two previous sightings of this species have been made in North Dakota, including one in Ramsey County (Judd 1917, *List of North Dakota birds*, published by the author) and one in Burleigh County (Moses 1946, *N.D. Outdoors* 9(2):14. This report represents the third sighting of a common moorhen in North Dakota (*American Birds* 36(5):866). R. E. Stewart (pers. comm.) suggested this species should be reclassified as “accidental” in the state as outlined in standardized guidelines (Faanes and Stewart, op. cit.).

Although the common moorhen was present during the breeding season, no evidence of a second moorhen or nesting activity was observed. Common moorhens nest infrequently as close as west-central and southcentral Minnesota (Johnsgard 1979, *Birds of the Great Plains*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln). — Paul M. Konrad, 418-18 Street, Bismarck, ND 58501.