

# BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee

## Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission for a major rarity in Australia. (It is not a mandatory requirement) Please complete all sections ensuring that you attach all relevant information including any digital images (email to [tonyp@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tonyp@bigpond.net.au) or [andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au](mailto:andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au)). Submissions to BARC should be submitted electronically wherever possible.

<b>Full Name:</b> Adam Higgins	Office Use
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<b>Address:</b>	<b>Phone No:</b>
	<b>Email:</b>

<b>Species Name:</b> Common Moorhen	<b>Scientific Name:</b> Gallinula chloropus
Date(s) and time(s) of observation:	11 April 2018 13:50
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	2 minutes
First and last date of occurrence:	11 April 2018
Distance to bird:	10 metres

<b>Site Location</b>
Redbank Creek Crossing, Wollogorang Rd. Northern Territory

<b>Habitat</b> (describe habitat in which the bird was seen): River crossing on the savannah way. Bird was on the crossing when we pulled up and nervously moved downstream as I got out of the car.
<b>Sighting conditions</b> (weather, visibility, light conditions etc.): Clear skies, good lighting. Had been cyclones in gulf 4 weeks prior.

<b>To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site?</b> not previously reported
<b>Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who?</b> (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)? Driver of the car not a birder
<b>How confident are you of your identification?</b> , e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not? 60%. First impressions it was smaller than Dusky Moorhen (but no other birds nearby to compare to), white markings on sides indicate Common Moorhen but as the bird is a sub adult bird the markings are not fully filled out. Range is outside the normal range of the Dusky Moorhen but there have been numerous sightings of the Dusky Moorhen in NT outside of

its normal range.

**Please confirm that you are willing for BARC to display your images** (fully credited with your name) electronically  
YES or NO YES

**Other details:** e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior occurrence/status of the species within or near this location?

*No*

**Physical Description of Bird - Please describe only what you saw:** (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species?

- (1) single bird - alive.
- (2) Immature / sub-adult
- (3) In field appeared slightly smaller and leaner than the Dusky Moorhen I see in SE Qld
- (4) See photos
- (5) See photos
- (6) No calls
- (7) In shallow water and moved to cover along edges as I got out of the car. See photos for habitat. It had a scurrying/nervous type movement constantly looking back over its shoulder which is similar to what I have seen in the Common Moorhen I have observed in Japan. The Dusky Moorhen I see are a bit more relaxed in their retreat but this could be due to being more used to people.

"Please insert extra page(s) for this section"

**Please indicate other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?**

Dusky Moorhen

**Was the description written from memory?** Yes

**Were photographs taken?** (please include where possible) Yes

**What experience have you had with the species in question?** (Did you know it was a Rare bird when you first

saw it?)

I thought it was something different when first seen which is why we stopped the car (we were in a hurry and not birding at the time). After a quick photo I dismissed as most likely a Dusky Moorhen so we left again as we had to get moving, but I still felt it was a little bit different which I dismissed in my mind as maybe a regional thing. I have observed Adult Common Moorhen previously in Japan and have observed Dusky Moorhen frequently.

**Name:** Adam Higgins

**Email Address:**

Please email all material





