

Sora

Porzana carolina

A small, secretive bird of freshwater marshes, the Sora is the most common and widely distributed rail in North America. Its distinctive descending whinny call can be easily heard from the depths of the cattails, but actually seeing the little marsh-walker is much more difficult.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Small marshbird.
- Triangular body shape, with deep rear end.
- Slaty gray body.
- Short, yellow bill.
- Strong legs.
- Short tail, often held upright showing white underneath.
- Black face and bib.

Immature Description

Similar to adult, but without black face or throat, and is buffy brownish on chest.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 7.9 - 9.8 inches
- Weight - 1.7 - 4 ounces

