

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

231-02-2002

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Yellow Rail *Caturnicops noveboracensis*
Subspecies (if known) _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) _____

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult in near breeding plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 10/2-4/02 TIME around 12:30 PM ->

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Tullytown, Bucks County

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Waste Management Property near Pennsbury Manor

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Derich Farbotnik
Address P.O. Box 135
City Revere PA State PA ZIP 18953
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Steve Farbotnik, Jason Horn, Joe Majdan, Ron French, Bob Schaffer, Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Ryan, Rick Wiltrout, Dave Wilton

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Mostly dense grass about 1 foot tall with 4 foot high smartweed and patches of pfragmites

DISTANCE TO BIRD 3-75 feet

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) cloudy, sunny, good lighting conditions

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Bushnell 10x Binoculars

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): I managed to flush the Yellow Rail 7 times. Myself and other got great views of the white patches on the secondaries and the yellowish color of the body. The one time I flushed it, it was about 3 feet away. It flew straight up about 4 feet before flying away from me. This is where I had the best view of all the fieldmarks. The dark patch on the face, the yellow and black streaks on the back and the short yellow bill. In flight it was pretty chunky looking, sort of pear shaped.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) The Yellow Rail was like a mouse with wings. He formed lines and walked through the area trying to flush it. It wouldn't fly up until we were about to step on it.

VOCALIZATIONS

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____
If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) Corn Crane - this bird had no chestnut on the wings. Other than the white secondaries the wings were fairly dark. Other rails - none have white secondaries, yellowish color, streaks on the back, and short yellow bill like this bird had.

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

This was a "lifer" for me. I am always going through the books looking at potential new county, state or life birds and this was one I looked at many times because they winter to the south of us and breed to the north of us. I figured they must go through.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) 100% seeing it 7 times. I saw all of the key field marks

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation Sibley
After observation Sibley

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 3/21/03

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Derrick Tarbotnik

231-02-2002

Unusual Bird Report

Person submitting data---Chuck Crunkleton

Address---202 Wiltshire Dr., Chalfont, Pa. 18914

Date of report---10/26/02

Observers---Devich Farbotnik, Steve Farbotnik, Dave Wilton, Jason Horn, Elaine Ryan, Chuck Crunkleton, and two others, names unknown.

Date seen---10/03/02

How long observed---For about 3 or 4 seconds

Where observed---Penn Warner Club, Falls Twp., Bucks Co. just west of the Delaware River

Conditions of observation--about 5:30 p.m., overcast, with high, thin clouds and occasional sunny breaks. I was about 15 feet away when the bird was flushed, and it flew diagonally away from me to the right where it landed about 30 to 35 feet away. It was a naked eye view.

Behavior & Habitat---The bird was observable only flying. Otherwise, it eluded us by staying low in the field. The field was once under water, as evidenced by the ground, which had dried, caked and cracked. The brush, mainly phragmites and smartweed, was waist high to over 15ft. Walking was difficult. It looked as if any rail or marsh denizen would have an easy time navigating along the ground.

Species---Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

Number seen---One

Description---The bird seemed small and chunky. The overall color to the back was a medium brownish yellow, and the back was patterned, not a uniform color. The head was very tiny compared to the outstretched wings, and tapered to a small, light colored bill. It looked almost tailless, and the legs dangled behind the bird. The legs were also a light color, a pale color hard to distinguish. The wings seemed slightly long in comparison to the body, were more rounded than pointed, and were darker than the body, grayish in color. There was a BRIGHT, white patch in the trailing edge of the secondaries. (I emphasize bright here because this is the first thing that caught my eye when the bird was flushed).

Similar Species---There are a few species that come to mind that are similar. The closest would be a Sora, especially a juvenile. I have seen over a dozen Sora since I began as a birder, and some in flight, but I have yet to see a juvenile in flight. Sora is generally a larger bird, with longer, relatively pointier wings, and overall darker in color. I understand a juvenile has white in the trailing edge of the wings, but the white is pale, and the white patch is not as large. We did flush a Sora also that day, and this bird was bigger, with a uniform coloring to the back. It had no white in the wings, so it was likely an adult.

The rail was not dark black in color, so it was not a Black Rail. The rail had a short bill, so it was not a Virginia Rail. The rail was small, so it was not a Clapper or King Rail. Even though this bird was small, it was not to be confused with any of the larger sparrows. I am not very familiar with any European species that this bird could have been. While a Corn Crake is similar in coloring, it is much larger, with a larger bill.

Chuck Crunkleton
202 Wiltshire Dr.
Chalfont, Pa. 18914
ccrunk@aol.com

Nick Pulcinella
210 Welcome Ave.
Norwood, PA 19074

November 1, 2002

231-02-2002

Yellow Rail – *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

Sighting: October, 2, 2002

Location: Outside Tullytown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania
on property rented by the Penn Warner Sportsmen' Club
and owned by Waste Management, Inc.
This property is along the Delaware River.

Weather: Clear in the low 60s.

Time of sighting: approximately 5 pm.

On October 2 I received a phone call from Devich Farbotnik advising me that he had flushed a Yellow Rail at the above stated location. Devich is a member of this Club. Devich told me that he had flushed the bird several times and that if I wished to have a chance at seeing it I better come right down. He got myself and a friend, Bob Shaffer, a guest pass and along with some others we proceeded to the location where the bird had been sighted.

The location was in some dried up ponds where dredgings from the river were deposited. The area was very weedy with stands of phragmites here and there. There were approximately 7 people in the group. We spread out and dragged a clothesline across the field and the bird flushed. Although the look was very brief the white secondaries were very obvious. The bird flushed a second time but I was looking the other way and missed it. Several in the group did see the bird both times. Shortly thereafter a Sora Rail was also flushed and you could sure see the difference.

It my understanding that Devich will officially report this sighting so this report is a backup one to his.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron French
3469 Limekiln Pike
Chalfont, PA 18914

Phone: 215-997-1765

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
Voting Tabulation – Round One

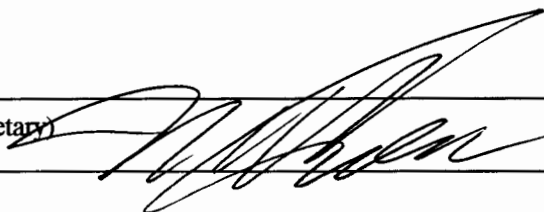
Species: Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)
 Date of Sighting: 2 October 2002 to 4 October 2002
 Location: TULLYTOWN
 County: BUCKS
 Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik, Ron French, Chuck Crunkleton mobs
 Date of Submission: 2002
 Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik, Ron French, Chuck Crunkleton

Written Description: Yes Photo: No Specimen: No Recording: NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead		X						
D. Heathcote		X						
P. Guris		X						
J. Stanley		X						
E. Witmer		X						
R. Leberman								
M. Sharp		X						
TOTALS		6						
DECISION		X						

Comments: 6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/1/04