

• RARE SPECIES REPORT

232-01-1992

SPECIES: Black Rail		NUMBER SEEN: 1
SIGHTING DATE: 12 Oct 92		SIGHTING TIME: 0850 h
LOCATION:	COUNTY & STATE: Lancaster, PA DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: 1/2 mi S of Holtwood DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: Holtwood Flyash Pond on levee above impoundment	
HABITAT: flushed from 6-12" grass/weeds at edge of grassy roadway; flew into phragmites		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: perfect, directly from behind me DISTANCE: 1 to 100 feet EQUIP. USED: naked eye LENGTH OF SIGHTING: ~ 5 seconds	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: called once as it landed in phragmites; a clear, rapid "Kee Kee do" (diagnostic) SIZE: → like a cowbird, with shorter tail & broader rounded wings PLUMAGE: jet black on entire body except for chestnut nape; no white speckling or streaking observed. ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): legs dangled behind and under body (~45° angle) just like Kingbirds BEHAVIOR: Virginias, and Soras I have seen in flight. short dark bill	
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: Saw 1 near Quarryville; heard it repeatedly for 2 weeks; heard several at Fort Mifflin, Pa.		
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: 1st split second reaction as it flushed was Redwinged Blackbird because of color (black) and (cont') →		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? NO IF SO, BY WHO? —		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? No - I am sole observer		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): even with intensive attempts later that morning and again in evening and night, the rail was not relocated, searched for unsuccessfully for several more days.		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: Robert M. Schutsky		
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SIGNATURE	Robert M. Schutsky	DATE: 12 Oct 92

Comparison (cont') the 1000's that roost at the

Flyash Pond, within 1/2-second I knew it was rail; overall body shape, short tail, rounded wings, dangling legs, weak flight.

Bird was jet black (in great light) with chestnut nose. This eliminates:

Yellow Rail - no white wing patches;

juv. Virginia Rail - chestnut on nose, not wings, size too ~~large~~^{small}, bill too short;

Sora - black, not mottled, too small; or

juv. any rail - too small, jet black w/ chestnut nose, perfect "ke, ke, doo" call,

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Black Rail**

Date of Sighting: **12 October 1992 to 12 October 1992**

Observer(s): **Bob Schutsky**

Date of Submission: **1992 Lancaster**

Submitted by: **Bob Schutsky**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			X				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 7/2/93