

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

8 February 2001

Dave Hawk  
521 Walnut St.  
Lehighton, PA 18235

Dear Dave,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Black Rail at Weissport on 7 September 1998 (or perhaps your details were forwarded to us from your county report). After careful review, the committee regrets that it cannot accept this record. The members felt that the details were too sketchy for adequate evaluation of a such rarity so far from its usual range.

The committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean that the bird was not the species reported, but rather that the committee believes the documentation submitted does not support the identification conclusively.

We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rarities you may find in the future.

Finally, the committee apologizes for the unacceptably long delay before all members were able to vote on the record. Circumstances beyond our control caused the problem, and we believe that we are back on a timely track.

Sincerely,

For the Committee:  
Paul Hess, Chairman

P.S. Beginning this year observers will receive postcards acknowledging that the committee has received their documentation. In addition, whereas observers formerly were notified only when reports were not accepted (in disappointing or irritating letters like this one), they will now receive cards announcing that their records *have* been accepted.

Record #232-01-1998



LOON, PACIFIC  
GREBE, EARED

FULMAR, NORTHERN  
PETREL, BLACK-CAPPED  
SHEARWATER, CORY'S  
FORM-PETREL, LEACH'S  
ANNET, NORTHERN

PELICAN, AMERICAN WHITE  
BROWN  
CORMORANT, GREAT  
ANHINGA  
FRIGATEBIRD, MAGNIFICENT

EGRET, REDDISH  
HERON, TRICOLORED  
IBIS, WHITE  
GLOSSY  
SPOONBILL, ROSEATE  
STORK, WOOD

WHISTLING-DUCK, FULVOUS  
BLACK-BELLIED  
SWAN, TRUMPETER  
GOOSE, ROSS'  
BARNACLE  
TEAL, CINNAMON  
DUCK, TUFTED  
EIDER, KING  
DUCK, HARLEQUIN  
OLDENEYE, BARROW'S  
DUCK, MASKED

KITE, AM. SWALLOW-TAILED  
MISSISSIPPI  
HAWK, SWAINSON'S  
GYRFALCON

RAIL, YELLOW  
**BLACK**  
CLAPPER  
KING  
SPOTTED  
GALLINULE, PURPLE  
CRANE, SANDHILL

PLOVER, SNOWY  
WILSON'S  
PIPING  
OYSTERCATCHER, AMERICAN  
STILT, BLACK-NECKED  
AVOCET, AMERICAN  
WILLET  
WHIMBREL  
GODWIT, BLACK-TAILED  
HUDSONIAN  
MARBLED  
SURFBIRD  
KNOT, RED  
SANDPIPER, PURPLE  
CURLEW

RUFF  
PHALAROPE, RED-NECKED  
RED

JAEGER, POMARINE  
PARASITIC  
GULL, FRANKLIN'S  
LITTLE  
BLACK-HEADED  
MEW  
THAYER'S  
KITTIWAKE, BLACK-LEGGED  
GULL, ROSS'  
SABINE'S

TERN, GULL-BILLED  
ROYAL  
ROSEATE  
ARCTIC  
LEAST  
SOOTY  
SKIMMER, BLACK

DOVEKIE  
MURRE, THICK-BILLED  
MURRELET, ANCIENT  
RAZORBILL  
GUILLEMOT, BLACK  
PUFFIN, ATLANTIC

PIGEON, BAND-TAILED  
DOVE, EURASIAN COLLARED  
WHITE-WINGED  
GROUND-DOVE, COMMON

OWL, NORTHERN HAWK  
GREAT GRAY  
BOREAL

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW  
HUMMINGBIRD, RUFOUS  
WOODPECKER, BLACK-BACKED

FLYCATCHER, PACIFIC SLOPE  
PHOEBE, SAY'S  
FLYCATCHER, VERMILION  
KINGBIRD, WESTERN  
FLYCATCHER, SCISSOR-TAILED

JACKDAW, COMMON

CHICKADEE, BOREAL  
NUTHATCH, BROWN-HEADED  
WREN, BEWICK'S  
SEDE

WHEATEAR, NORTHERN  
BLUEBIRD, MOUNTAIN  
SOLITAIRE, TOWNSEND'S  
THRUSH, BICKNELL'S  
VARIED

WAXWING, BOHEMIAN

WARBLER, BLACK-THROATED GRAY  
TOWNSEND'S  
KIRTLAND'S  
SWAINSON'S

TANAGER, SUMMER  
WESTERN

GROSBEAK, BLACK-HEADED  
BUNTING, LAZULI  
PAINTED  
DICKCISSEL

TOWHEE, GREEN-TAILED  
SPOTTED

SPARROW, BACHMAN'S  
CLAY-COLORED  
LARK  
BUNTING, LARK  
SPARROW, LECONTE'S  
SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED  
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED  
SEASIDE  
GOLDEN-CROWNED  
HARRIS'

MEADOWLARK, WESTERN  
BLACKBIRD, YELLOW-HEADED  
BREWER'S  
ORIOLE, BULLOCK'S

BRAMBLING  
GROSBEAK, PINE  
REDPOLL, HOARY

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#### CODES:

**A** = Present All Quarter  
**R** = Permanent Resident  
**P** = Present Part of the Quarter  
**E** = Earlier than usual  
**L** = Later than usual  
**H** = Higher than usual  
**L** = Lower than usual  
**\*** = See Comments  
**N** = New for County

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

Date of Sighting: 7 September 1998 to 7 September 1998

Location: WEISSPORT

County: CARBON

Observer(s): David Hawk

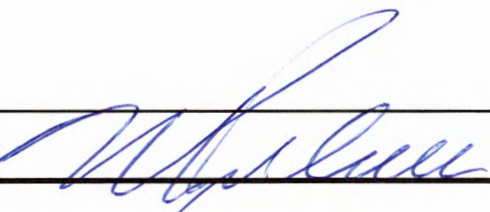
Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: David Hawk

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman					X			
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess				X				
R. Ickes					X			
J. McWilliams					X			
B. Reid					X			
P. Rodewald					X			
TOTALS				1	5			1
DECISION					X			

Comments: 0/6/1

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 10/8/98