

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific): Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis*

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** ?

Date Seen: 4/30/2007 & 5/1/2007

Time: Approx. 7 PM + & 10 AM +/-

Where Seen (Town/County): Doylestown Twp., Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): Pine Run Dam-South of Ferry Rd.

Found by: Devich Farbotnik

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella & Judy Mirabella(5/1 only)

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): Several observers 4/30, just us 5/1

Distance to Bird: 10 feet closest

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Sun position was behind us on 4/30, cloudy but bright 5/1

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins

Habitat: Wet meadow with standing water over much of area at that time. Some patches of sedges or rushes but mostly a grass, I think.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage: I am reporting as I suspect no one else will with the exception of photos or video by the finder. On both occasions the bird flushed from the meadow despite care in trying to not disturb it. As it flew away, a small sized, black in appearance bird, with small white spots on the upper parts was seen. The stubby, short tailed, short necked, and rather broad rounded winged shape of a rail was seen. On 4/30, after being flushed, the bird was seen walking in a ditch and not much more could be seen other than the small rail shaped dark bird with white spots. Under the conditions, no more fine details were seen. I did not attempt better views to avoid more disturbance. On the second day, we just by luck happened to be walking where it was, as we were heading to the lake to check shorebirds and accidentally flushed it by accident. We did not pursue it into the ditch to avoid more disturbance.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Calling regularly on 4/30, only twice on 5/1. Flew as described above and walked in ditch for brief glimpses between vegetation.

Vocalizations: The normal keekeedrr call was clearly identical to the recordings being played in efforts to expose the bird.

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report): Devich Farbotnik says he will submit photo/video documentation.

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others): No other adult rail is black. The call was unique to this species as far as I know.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it):

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: No experience with Black Rail but have seen the other N. Amer. rails.

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not). Yes, song alone is conclusive and size and color were correct.

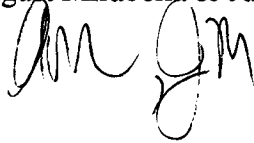
References:

During Observation: None

After Observation: Before observation, check The Sibley Guide to Birds

Date of report: 6/27/2007

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella & Judy Mirabella

Handwritten signatures of August Mirabella and Judy Mirabella. The signature on the left is 'AM' and the signature on the right is 'JM'.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis)

Date of Sighting: 29 April 2007 to 5 May 2007

Location: BUCKS

County : PINE RUN DAM

Observer(s): D. Farbotnik, A. Mirabella, T. Johnson et al.

Date of Submission: 2007

Submitted by: A. Mirabella, T. Johnson

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

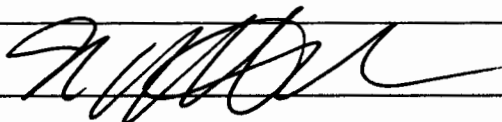
Specimen: No

Recording: Audio

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
J. Stanley <i>B. Lester</i>	X							
E. Witmer	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: *7/10*

Signature (Secretary)



Date: *12/6/07*