

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2020-04-22 14:06:31
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Adam Zahm
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<b>Phone</b>	5052632143
<b>Observer's Address</b>	810 S. 4th St. Apt.B Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19147 United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Clapper Rail
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Rallus crepitans
<b>Subspecies (if known)</b>	crepitans
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	04-19-2020 8:10 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/checklist/S67475711">https://ebird.org/checklist/S67475711</a>
<b>County</b>	Philadelphia
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Philadelphia
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Delaware River Trail
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	39°55'44.0"N 75°08'27.1"W
<b>Distance to bird</b>	~300 feet. I was on the southern edge of the pier to the north, roughly 1/3 way out.
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Clear morning. I was looking south but no trouble from the sun at the time.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Nikon d500 w/ Nikkor 200-500 mm, shot at 500 mm. Also binoculars...
<b>Description</b>	Initially the bird was in the river about 20-30 yards from the bank, swimming towards the bank, scared to bank by two Canada Geese in a tussle. Seen on the northern side of the asphalt pier. Unfortunately I was on the next pier to the north. It spent a few minutes at the spot in the photos. Eventually it returned to the water and swam underneath the pier into darkness.

**Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)**

When I first spotted the bird, it was swimming quickly to the bank. I would say at a similar speed as a duck that is uncomfortable with a nearby human. I speculate it was moving there to get away from the loud Canada Geese coming its direction. There were also some fishermen at the end of the pier and it was also swimming away from their position. When on the bank bird never did much other than explore the the little nook it was in and look up and down the bank. I say bank, but really its some wooden rails placed at the edge of the river (see photos). n To me it seemed like the bird did not want to go back in the water, as it hesitated by leaning out over the water, checking the next nook up and downstream. It transferred one section up on the bank (will make sense from photos) by a quick flight.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

I used the size of the bird to help distinguish from the Virginia Rail. Colors appeared incorrect for King Rail. Submitted to Reddit forum r/whatsthisbird, and some knowledgeable folks said, despite the location, a likely Clapper and furthermore, ruled out Virginia Rail.

**Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:**

I have some additional photos than what I've submitted, although all are similar. Reviewing my photos, I spotted a Red-winged Blackbird in one shot, which may help with sizing the Rail.

**Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)**

Personally, no. I've only been birding for a little over a year and this is the first Rail I've seen. I do trust my sister's ID, which matched with the Reddit forum mentioned above.

**After**

r/whatsthisbird (Reddit forum)

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph

**Upload images, audio, video or drawings**



[Clapper Rail 1.jpg](#)



[Clapper Rail 2.jpg](#)



[Clapper Rail 3.jpg](#)



[Clapper Rail 4.jpg](#)



[Clapper Rail 5.jpg](#)



[Untitled presentation.jpg](#)