

235-01-1993

RARE SPECIES REPORT

SPECIES: <i>King Rail</i> - (<i>Rallus elegans</i>)		NUMBER SEEN: one
SIGHTING DATE: 8 May 93		SIGHTING TIME: 4:30 pm apx. ± 5 min
LOCATION: Atcoa Marsh	COUNTY & STATE: Lanc. Co., PA. DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: Edge of Lancaster City - S.E. side DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: Along Fruitville Pike and Dillerville Rd.	
HABITAT: Marsh		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: Sunny DISTANCE: 30 yards EQUIP. USED: 10x50 swift Binoculars LENGTH OF SIGHTING: 5-7 min.	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: Tick-Tick - Brrrrrrrr SIZE: Large for rail - 14"15" PLUMAGE: Rust colored neck + chest was well lit. Flanks barred Black+white. Back was black with feathers edged lighter. Rust colored wing coverts. ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): Legs were black, Bill length apx 6", Bill color was dark expect lower mandible was dark orange BEHAVIOR: aggitated by Clapper Rail taped call. Called in an opening of cattails for 5-7 min.	
Many	FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: King Rail sightings in N.C. only, 1990 Clapper Rail sightings in N.J., + Del. Many Virginia Rail sightings in Maryland + PA Observed Virginia Rails at NCMA on 2 May 93 at 20 ft. in open.	
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: To large for Virginia Rail. No large gray patch on wing coverts side of head. Clapper Rail has no rust colored		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? No IF SO, BY WHO?		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? Jonathan Heller		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space):		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: Randy C. Miller		
ADDRESS: 607 Woodland Dr PHONE # (717) 664-3778 Manheim PA 17545		
SIGNATURE Randy C. Miller		DATE: 9 May 93

After a day of birding with the Lancaster Co. Bird Club on their annual Warbler Walk, Jonathan Helier and I decided to try for Virginia Rail and Sora at Alcoa Marsh in Lancaster. We arrived at apx. 7pm. I played Virginia Rail and Sora tape for apx. 15-20 min. with no response. Then before leaving I played Virginia Rail, King Rail, Clapper Rail, and Sora all in a row. We both heard a strange call apx 75 yards away. A rail sp. Then I played them all again. Another response. Then I played each one separately. It called on the Clapper Rail call. The bird came in quickly but we could not see any movement. It was only 25-30 yards away in cattails with open areas. We were apx 10ft high on a bank. The call was a loud Tick, Tick, Brrrrrrrr. After 15 min. I told Jonathan to move to another position 20 yards away. I stayed where I was. After a few minutes Jonathan sighted the King Rail in an opening. I tried to move in but spooked the Rail. After a minute it came out and had very good looks for 5 min. apx. It called alot in response to the Clapper Rail tape. The large rust colored rail with strong barring on the flanks and rust wing covert were easily observed.

On 11 May 1991 I had heard a King Rail at 10:30pm doing a Tick-Tick-Tick call. (at the location)

There are also two ^{other} recent records on King Rail in Alcoa Marsh.

The summer of 1982 and May 10-12, 1988

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **King Rail (Rallus elegans)**

Date of Sighting: **8 May 1993 to 8 May 1993**

Location: **ALCOA MARSH**

County: **LANCASTER**

Observer(s): **Randy Miller**

Date of Submission: **1993**

Submitted by: **Randy Miller**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

9-25-94