

## Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Fill in all relevant fields and then click on the "Submit by Email" button at the end of the form to send it to the PORC Secretary.

**NOTE:** The fields scroll down as you type to permit as much text as needed.  
The **RESET** button clears all of the fields if you wish to start over with a blank form.

Species (Common and Scientific Name): KING RAIL--Rallus elegans

Subspecies, if known

Number of individuals Sex(es) ONE---I THOUGHT IT WAS A MALE

Age(s) and Plumage(s) (E.g. Immature; Adult in Breeding Plumage; Year for Gulls; Basic or Alternate If You Prefer Those Terms; State of Molt If Applicable): ADULT--RICHLY COLORED

Date and Time of Observation MAY 23, 2011.-----FROM 10:00 AM.----NOON

Location (City, Borough, Township) Embreeville--Newlin Twp. --Chester County, Pa.

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road) Embreeville Marsh AKA--Ches-len Marsh--151 Embreeville Road--rt.# 162

### Observer Reporting:

Name Chuck Chalfant

Address State Zip 5626 Umbletown Road, Gap Pa. 17527

E-mail (Optional) chuckchalfant@comcast.net

Phone (Optional) 717-442-8953---cell--717-808-4626

Other Observers (Only Those Who Saw and Identified the Bird with You): LARRY LEWIS

Habitat (E.g. Mowed Field, Woodland Edge, Any other details) HEAVILY VEGETATED MARSH

Distance to Bird (Specify feet, yards, etc.) SEEN AT 5 YARDS

Viewing Conditions (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) OVERHEAD AT NOON

Optical Equipment Used ZEISS--10 x 50--BINOCULARS

Description (include as much detail as you observed – size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

FOR THE BEST PART OF 2 HRS I WAS ALONE WITH THE CALLING BIRD, AND NEVER SAW IT IN THE THICK VEGETATION WHILE IT WAS CALLING INCESSANTLY. BUT THROUGH THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION, I WAS ABLE (BY PLAYING CLAPPER, KING, AND VIRGINIA RAIL CALLS ) TO ELIMINATE THE CLAPPER AND VIRGINIA, AND BE 100 % SURE OF IT BEING A KING RAIL.

AFTER CALLING LARRY LEWIS TO THE SITE, LARRY SHOWED UP AND PLACED HIS CALLING DEVICE DOWN NEAR THE EDGE OF THE MARSH ( AS THE BIRD WAS CALLING ) AND VERY EXPERTLY LURED THE RAIL INTO OUR VIEW, THEN WE WERE ABLE TO SEE BY ITS LARGE SIZE, THAT IT DEFINITELY WAS NOT VIRGINIA, AND BY IT'S RICH DEEP ORANGE COLOR OF CHEST AND NECK, AND STRONGLY CONTRASTING BOLD WHITE BARRING ON THE BLACK REAR FLANKS, AND THE CONTRASTING NEATLY STREAKED PATTERN ON IT'S BACK, IT SEEMED LIKE IT HAD TO BE A KING RAIL. I PERSONALLY DID NOT NOTICE THE "neat rows of dark spots on sides of breast", as Sibley notes on his King Rail drawing. That was the one field mark, I did not pay close enough attention to. THIS WAS A VERY SHARPLY MARKED BIRD, NOT THE BLURRY, MOTTLED LOOK OF A CLAPPER.

THE ONLY OTHER BIRDS TO COMPARE SIZE TO WERE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS.

AND THE RAIL WAS MUCH LARGER THAN A RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.

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

IN TYPICAL RAIL FASHION, IT WAS MAKING ITSELF HARD TO BE SEEN, CALLING INCESSANTLY, BUT NOT BEING SEEN FOR QUITE A WHILE. BUT THIS WOULD PERTAIN TO ANY OF THE RAIL SPECIES THAT WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO SEE IN OUR AREA.

THIS RAIL CALLED VERY OFTEN, ONLY MADE A 'GRUNTING' CALL ONE TIME, ALL OF THE OTHER CALLING WAS THE SINGLE KEK-KEK-KEK-KEK-KEK-CALL, SOUNDING EXACTLY LIKE STOKES CD RECORDING, MONOTONOUS AND EVENLY PACED.

WHAT THIS BIRD DID MOSTLY WAS CALL A WHOLE LOT, ON IT'S OWN AND IT ALSO WOULD RESPOND TO THE STOKES' PLAYBACK OF KING RAIL CALLS, IT WOULD APPROACH, THE CALL BUT NEVER CAME IN QUITE CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE SEEN UNTIL LARRY CAME AND PLACED HIS CALLING DEVICE CLOSER TO THE EDGE OF THE MARSH.

Vocalizations THIS RAIL CALLED OFTEN AND CLEARLY FROM CLOSE RANGE, AND I DID SEND

Supporting evidence if any: (Check all that apply)

- Photograph
- Video Recording
- Audio Recording
- Drawing

**Photographer/recorder/illustrator:**

Name CHUCK CHALFANT

Address SAME AS ABOVE

City State Zip

E-mail (Optional)

Phone (Optional)

**Please send a copy of the photograph, drawing, or recording to:**

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
 Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
 613 Howard Ave.  
 West Chester, Pa 19380  
 Nickpulcinella@comcast.net

**If this is a dead bird:**

General Condition LIVE BIRD

If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

BY PLAYING THE STOKES TAPES, IT WAS VERY EVIDENT IT WAS A KING RAIL, AND NOT VIRGINIA OR CLAPPER. AFTER SEEING THIS RAIL, I COULD IMMEDIATELY RULE OUT VIRGINIA RAIL BECAUSE OF THE DRASTIC SIZE DIFFERENCE OF KING AND VIRGINIA.

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

HOPEFULLY LARRY LEWIS WILL SEND IN DOCUMENTION ON THIS BIRD, AS HE IS A VERY EXPERIENCED BIRDER WITH MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH RAILS AS WELL AS OTHER BIRDS.

Previous experience with this and/or similar species

I HAD NEVER HEARD A KING RAIL BEFORE, BUT AM FAMILIAR WITH VIRGINIA RAIL AND HAVE DISCOVERED THEM ON MANY OCCASION AT WHAT FEW LOCAL MARSHES THAT

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

YES-----THE STEADY MONOTONOUS TEMPO OF THE SINGLE KEK NOTES SEEMED TO PERFECTLY MATCH THE KING RAIL CALLS ON THE STOKE'S CD I WAS PLAYING ON THE

**References Consulted:**

During Observation STOKES BIRD SONG ON TOUCH I-POD

After Observation THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS

Date of this Report: JUNE 2, 2011. (Click on the box and select date from calendar)

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: King Rail      *Rallus elegans*

Date of Sighting: 23 May 2011 to 27 May 2011

County : CHESTER

Location : EMBREEVILLE MARSH

Observer(s): Chuck Chalfant, m.obs

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Chuck Chalfant

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus		X						
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
R. Koury								
D. Weber			X					
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			5					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

G/O

Signature (Secretary)

Nick Pulcinella

Date:

11/20/11