



Illinois Ornithological Society

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Letter from the editor

Sometimes, a picture is worth a thousand birds. In fact, a photograph can be the difference between a rare bird sighting getting accepted or not by state ornithological committees.

Meadowlark provides a venue for photographs that document birds. These photos also spark memories for those who saw the rare avian finds of past seasons. In this issue, for instance, you'll see a photo taken by Bill Saylor of a Trumpeter Swan which was observed last April in northern Illinois. When I look at the photo, I am taken back to that sunny, early spring day when a lovely swan paraded on the pond and gave its unique, muffled trumpet-like call.

Alas, I never made it to Montrose Beach to see the rare Black Rail which strutted in the sand last spring for some lucky birders. But Kanae Hirabayashi snapped a photo of the rail, so now we can all enjoy it even though we weren't all there. You'll find her photo of the Black Rail in the Seasonal Highlights section of this issue.

We encourage our readers to send photos of birds, but there are a few guidelines you'll need to follow if you want to see your work in print. Record the exact date and location including

town and county in which you saw the bird. Send that information along with a clear color print, your name, address, and phone number. It's better to put the information on a sticker and attach it to the photo's back than to write directly on the back of the photo. Sometimes the ink or lead bleeds through to the front.

A stamped return envelope will be helpful if you want your photo sent back when it's no longer needed. We use as many photos as we can, but sometimes we just don't have the space or we didn't get it in time to include it in the appropriate issue.

Right now, we use color prints that are reproduced in black and white. If you've taken slides, it would help us to have a color print made from the slide.

Special thanks should go to all the photographers who regularly send us photos so you can enjoy and reminisce. Please congratulate Joe Milosevich, Dennis Oehmke, Kanae Hirabayashi, Robert Hughes, and all the other "sharp shooters" for adding one more dimension to our enjoyment of birds in Illinois.

Sheryl DeVore

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