

plums, it was crab apples. By 1992 The Magic Hedge was considerably improved for birding because of new and healthy plants, and the numbers of birders attending the area continued to climb.

The new plantings almost went to naught in 1987 when a drought was so severe it looked like it would all wilt away (much of it did). Discussions about replacing all the drought-damaged plants began, and in 1991, Dr. Margaret Murley, President of the Fort Dearborn Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society, offered to donate funds to plant 100 honeysuckle bushes in the Magic Hedge. I discovered that the Bork Nursery in Onarga, Illinois had in stock what they said was an American cultivar of the red Arnold honeysuckle. Bob Megquier and Tom Creech arranged the planting for the Chicago Park District. I received a call from the Bork Nursery about transporting the plants to Chicago. The price they quoted was for the plants, not for trucking. I called Wes Serafin, then President of the Chicago Ornithological Society, and he agreed to provide funds to make up the difference. So, in spring of 1994 a flatbed truck of 100 red Arnold honeysuckles arrived from Onarga. They were temporarily stored at the Park District Nursery until planting, and 10 of the bushes were donated to the District for their own stock. That planting has been a huge success, accounting for all the honeysuckle bushes in the Magic Hedge now with bright red blossoms. The remaining Tartarian honeysuckle bushes have a pale pink blossom.

### **The Lincoln Park Advisory Council**

In late 1996 the Lincoln Park Advisory Council, with President Betsy Altman, decided to try to recreate the Alfred G. Caldwell Plan for Montrose Point, set forth during the Depression, but never fully implemented. They obtained funding from the U.S. Forest Service, appointed Brett August as the Chairperson of the LPAC Task Force on Montrose Point, and hired Kathleen Dickhut as Project Coordinator. Dickhut, a former CPD employee and Project Manager of the Lincoln Park Framework Plan, approved and published in 1991, met with the Council and they announced their goals in September 1997. The Montrose Point Plan called for two basic components: to create an improved habitat for wildlife and to involve school children in hands-on educational projects, utilizing the Point, as a part of the Nature Along the Lake and Junior Earth Teams (JET) programs of the Park District, implemented by LPAC in 1995. Surveys showed 70% of all Chicago residents use Lincoln Park in some manner, so land uses had to involve recreational activities and public preferences.

To work on the creation of the improved habitat for wildlife Wolff Clements and Associates was cho-



*The Black Rail is one of the rarities seen at Chicago's Montrose Point. 30 May 1994. Photograph by Kanae Hirabayashi.*

sen as the consulting landscape architect. To coordinate the youth activities teacher Nadine Zell was hired. The first of the many activities conducted by Dickhut was to name focus groups to comment on their public preferences for the project. Birders were one focus group, and others included fishermen, boaters, casual users, etc. As the planning went forward, it became immediately obvious that the original plans would impact bird migration at Montrose Point in two significant ways. In the original Caldwell Plan the area now occupied by The Magic Hedge was all open as a prairie vista allowing viewers at the highest spot on the Point (c. 42 feet above lake level) to look westward uninterrupted.

To achieve this Caldwell goal would require that The Magic Hedge be removed. Secondly, one of Caldwell's structural details called for a Council Ring (a favorite of landscape architect Jens Jensen), a large semi-circular concrete seating area at the top of the Point; this would be in the center of what is now the Meadow. With the removal of The Magic Hedge and the creation of the Council Ring, Montrose Point users could sit in the Ring and view the Chicago skyline in one direction, view the lake in another, and view an expanse of low prairie in another. A number of people supported the creation of the Council Ring and the elimination of The Magic Hedge.

### **The Magic Hedge Triumphs**

To illustrate its commitment to the project the Park District in the spring of 1998 placed a substantial number of shrubs and ornamental trees at Montrose, to create the impression of the circle of vegetation around the Point that Caldwell visualized. A number of birches and maples were planted in the northeast