

(E. Kershner reported in Kleen 1997) and a second at the Des Plaines Conservation Area in Will County.

Henslow's Sparrows have historically not been regular summer residents in the southern part of Illinois. Bohlen (1978: 127) listed the Henslow's Sparrow as a very local summer resident in northern and central Illinois. Summering populations in the southern part of the state have only recently been discovered, and most populations found so far have been fairly small, usually consisting of 3–5 pairs (Robinson 1996). The increase of Henslow's Sparrows in the southern part of the state appears to be associated with the creation of idle grasslands that have been established as part of the Conservation Reserve Program (Herkert 1997).

The Henslow's Sparrow was the second most commonly encountered species in these two fields accounting for 9.5% of all birds observed, only the Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), which accounted for 10.3% of all observations, was seen in greater numbers. The Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) tied Henslow's Sparrow as the second most common species with 9.5% of all observations. Other bird species detected in these fields included: Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus* (9.0% of all observations), Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla* (9.0%), Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna* (8.5%), Northern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus* (8.1%), Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas* (6.7%), Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens* (5.0%), Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor* (3.1%), Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma*

rufum (2.5%), Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus* (2.2%), Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (2.0%), American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis* (1.6%), Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis* (1.4%), Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea* (1.3%), Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater* (1.3%), Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius* (1.3%), and Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis* (1.1%).

Literature Cited

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Black Rail in a Lee County Restored Wetland/Prairie

At 5:15 A.M. on 27 June 1997, I entered a complex of restored wetlands owned and managed by the Richardson Wildlife Foundation in southern Lee County. I was there to census restored wetlands for research I was conducting on the distribution of wetland birds. The wetland is 3–5 acres in area and has been restored to a semi-permanent, shallow (1 m depth) marsh. The wetland is ringed by 5–8 m of cattails, beyond which is an 8–10 m ring of sedges and rushes. The entire wetland is surrounded by a restored prairie.

In an area where my tape recording could be heard across the entire wetland I played the calls of Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Common Moorhen

(*Gallinula chloropus*), Least Bittern (*Ixorychus exilis*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Sora (*Porzana carolina*), Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), and Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). During this tape sequence the only wetland birds I saw were an American Coot (*Fulica americana*) and a Common Moorhen. I did not hear a response until the “Kickie-doo” of the Black Rail was answered. I had been fooled before by echoes from trees and buildings and first thought it must have been an echo. But I heard another “Kickie-doo” call after playing the recording a second time. I allowed the recording to play five to seven more times; each time I heard the “echo”. I