

Shadowbirds

an Exhibition by William Burt

***note:** After its long travel history (26 museums) *Shadowbirds* is now “retired,” and superseded by *Rare & Elusive Birds of North America*.

Shadowbirds is a collection of photographs made in remote marshlands, often in the middle of the night.

The central characters - the "shadowbirds" - are **rails**: the most mysterious, most elusive of all birds, bar none, and birds that haunted the photographer for years, drawing him repeatedly to their wetland realms in Maryland, Manitoba, North Dakota, and Connecticut. His quest for two of these marsh phantoms, the **black rail** and the **yellow rail**, is the subject of a book by William Burt, also titled *Shadowbirds* (Lyons & Burford, 1994).

Shadowbirds the exhibition, like the book, revolves around these two small enigmatic rails. But it gives glimpses also of the other rails, and certain other birds of marshes, themselves elusive creatures often difficult to see.

The exhibition features thirty-three museum-quality Cibachrome and dye transfer prints, and a selection of brief quotes from the book.
