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[Note: written out the reference is
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The 1998 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count

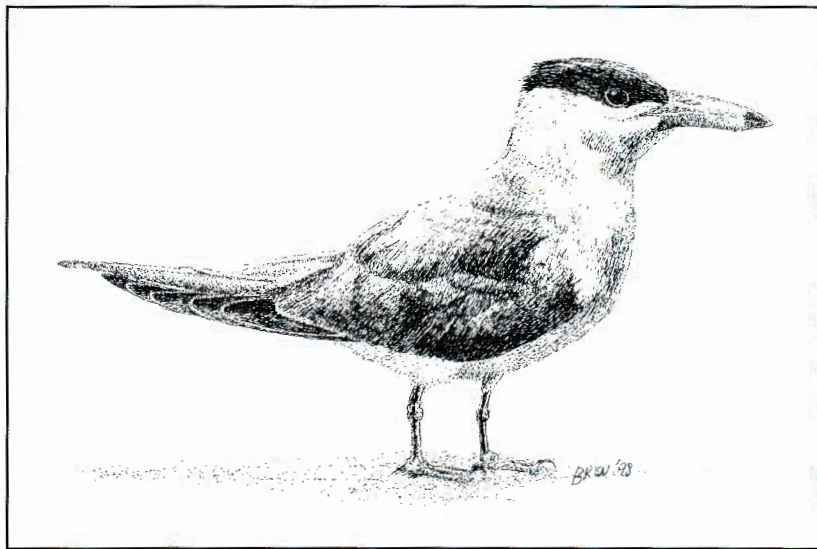
by Vernon M. Kleen

On Saturday, 9 May 1998, Illi-
nois' 27th Statewide Spring Bird
Count, daytime winds ranged from a
respectable 5 to 15 mph, with only
occasional gusts exceeding 20 mph
at isolated locations. The wind direc-
tion, however, was a different matter;
it was so variable that adjacent coun-
ties often reported it from totally op-
posite directions. Skies were clear or
mostly clear over much of the state,
but, cloudy to mostly cloudy (includ-
ing a trace of rain in the early after-
noon) in the extreme southern coun-
ties. Morning temperatures ranged
from the mid 40s to low 50s in the
north and the low to upper 50s in the
south; daytime highs reached the 70s
statewide, but, mostly in the low 70s.

For the second consecutive year
the Spring Bird Count coincided with

International Migratory Bird Day.
Our results will also appear as part of
the grandiose "international" report.
Count data have become major re-
sources for population analyses, es-
pecially for some of the state's threat-
ened and endangered species. The
data have been used by the U.S. Fish
& Wildlife Service to monitor migra-
tory birds; comparative results have
shown a good degree of correspon-
dence with the Breeding Bird Survey
trends for Illinois' resident species.

For publication purposes, most
comparative information is presented
in paragraph rather than tabular form.
Table 1 provides a visual record of
the county results showing the num-
ber of counties in which each species
occurred, as well as the high count
totals.



Caspian Tern drawing by Brian K. Willis.