



Adult Arctic Tern, second from left, Braidwood Nuclear Station Cooling Lake, Will Co., third Illinois record, second Will County record. 6 May 1995. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

photo even reveals a white cheek patch which I was unable to note in the field.

This Arctic Tern represents only the third Illinois record for this species. The first occurred on Lake Springfield 28 June through 1 July, 1992 (Bohlen, 1993). The second was also recorded in Will County on 27 May 1993. All of Illinois' records for this very rare vagrant have been adult birds in breeding plumage. I have had the unique pleasure of seeing and photographing all three of Illinois' Arctic Terns.

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Literature Cited

Bohlen, H. David. First Illinois Record of the Arctic Tern. *Meadowlark*, A Journal of Illinois Birds. 2:12.

Editor's Note: Milosevich's account of Illinois' second Arctic Tern is published in Meadowlark 2:140.

White-tailed Kite at Springfield, Sangamon County

While walking back to my truck on 21 April 1995 at Washington Park in Springfield, I noticed two or three Broad-winged Hawks floating over. Then a whitish bird about the size of a Ring-billed Gull approached from the south, just above the tree tops. As I watched the bird, I decided it was not a gull. Suddenly, it thundered into my mind that the bird was a White-

tailed Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*). The bird turned into a west wind with a bouncing flight and I ran east to keep it in sight.

I had a fairly brief view - about 30 seconds - while I was moving east and stopping to get looks at the bird. In its gliding posture, the wings were held in a horizontal manner. The head was white and no bill was protruding as it would with a gull. I could clearly see the solid black shoulder patch on the upper left wing and also, the grayish under-primaries of the right wing. The wingtips were fairly pointed. The all-white tail was long and squared off. I did not see leg, eye, or bill color because of the distance and apparently missed the small black patch at the wrist of the underwing, if it was present.

The bird passed out of sight heading WNW behind a treeline. I jumped into my truck and raced west, but soon became snarled in traffic. I drove west of Springfield and scanned the sky, but never could relocate the kite. I stopped and drew a crude sketch and took brief notes on what I had seen.

In 1969 and 1970, I lived and worked at Camp Pendleton in California where I saw several of these raptors daily. I am convinced, even with my rather brief fly-by look, that the bird was a White-tailed Kite. Illinois' first White-tailed Kite occurred 9 May 1987 near Williamsfield, Knox County (Baum, 1987).

Literature Cited

Baum, M.H. 1987. Illinois' Black-shouldered Kite. *Illinois Birds and Birding* 3:60-61.

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