



*Mourning Dove on nest in Chicago backyard on the incredibly early date of 11 Feb. 1995. Nest was successful despite freezing temperatures later in the month. Photo by Eric Walters.*

### Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in McHenry County

At 10 a.m. 6 June 1995, Dave Miller of McHenry was driving north on Route 31 north of the village of Ringwood and south of the entrance to the McHenry County Conservation District's Glacial Park. Out of the corner of his eye, Miller noted an unusual bird silhouette on a western fenceline. He pulled over to look and discovered an unmistakable male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) perched on the fence by an orchard. The bird flew up and off along the fenceline hawking for insects. It landed so Miller could get a second good look before it flew off with a spread tail.

Miller drove quickly to the nearby conservation district office and called me. Twenty minutes later I was there and saw the bird sitting on the same fence, as Miller drove toward me from the north. I enjoyed a good 15 minutes viewing the bird as it perched and flew over the field near the fence before it finally flew across the highway in front of my car to give me an even better look. The lighting could not have been better for us to see the bird. Total viewing time was about an hour.

Miller returned in the evening and saw the bird in the same area. Other birders tried to find the bird the next day, but without success. Miller's photographs are on file with Vern Kleen of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen 10 July 1993 in Pulaski County (McKee 1994), another was seen 25 April 1995 in DeKalb County (Dudek 1996). There are no positive breeding records for Illinois for this species, considered a rare vagrant in the state. Prior to the McHenry, DeKalb, and Pulaski County sightings, there were at least 38 state records for this species, mostly from spring and summer (Bohlen 1989). Scissor-tails nest as close as north-central Missouri and the potential exists for this species to nest in Illinois (Bohlen 1989).

—Darlene Fisk  
9313 Bull Valley Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098

### Literature Cited

- Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press. Bloomington, IN.
- Dudek, T. 1996. Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds 4:4. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Visits DeKalb County.
- McKee, J. And C. 1994. Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds 3:19-20. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Pulaski County.

### Three Black-throated Green Warblers in Lake County During Breeding Season

While doing a breeding bird population survey at the Ryerson Conservation Area in Lake County the summer of 1995, I discovered three separate singing Black-throated Green Warblers (*Dendroica virens*). On 17 June 1995, while walking a path across a small, restored prairie toward an oak flatwoods, I heard the unmistakable song of a Black-throated Green Warbler. The warbler was singing in a wooded area west of the