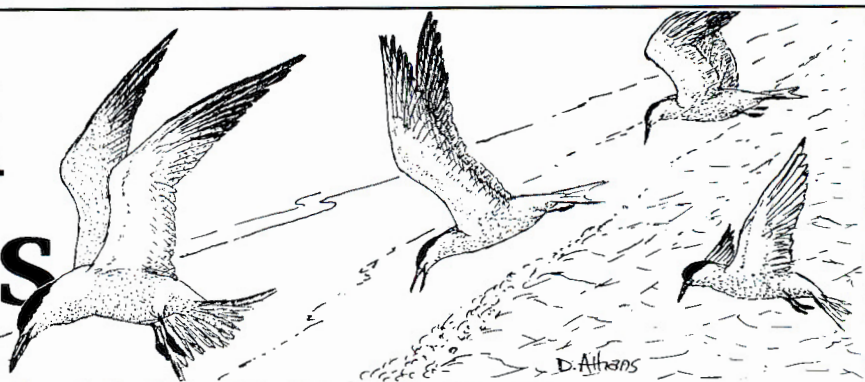


Field Notes



Common Tern drawing by David Athans.

1995 Breeding Season Report

by Vernon M. Kleen

The 1995 Breeding Season was a good year for nesting herons and grassland species in Illinois; it also rendered a number of interesting highlights including summer occurrences of Ospreys near Rockford (this species has not raised any known young in Illinois in 45 years), increasing numbers of Cooper's Hawks reports, continuing success for Chicago-nesting Peregrine Falcons, increasing populations of Northern Bobwhites, several reported broods of King Rails and Common Moorhens, the westward spread of nesting Sandhill Cranes, continuing expansion of nesting Black-necked Stilts, successful nesting of Common Terns, recently fledged Barn Owls, fair numbers of summer Alder and Least Flycatchers, a nesting Western Kingbird, young Red-breasted Nuthatches, a summering Solitary Vireo, the continuing lack of Swainson's Warblers, summering Mourning and Canada Warblers, good numbers of Henslow's Sparrows, and the first summer records for Trumpeter Swans.

As usual there were numerous June and July occurrences of non-breeding birds throughout the state. Traditionally, those records which were not late spring or early fall records had been incorporated into the body of this report; now, however, they appear in the Non-Breeding Summer Occurrences supplement at the end.

1995 marked the third year for the near completion of all 81 of Illinois' Breeding Bird Survey routes; data from these routes have been used for nearly 30 years to detect the short-term and long-term population changes of Illinois' breeding species. Many thanks to the many volunteers who faithfully conduct these surveys every year.

Weatherwise, June and July were rather normal. The official records indicate that June temperatures were normal and July temperatures averaged 1.1 degrees above normal. June precipitation averaged a fraction of an inch

below normal and July precipitation averaged 0.6 inches below normal.

As usual, this compilation could not be possible without the ongoing support of dozens of dedicated observers and reporters. Persons responsible for records in the accompanying species accounts are acknowledged individually after their records. Considerable effort has been made to be sure that all information is correct and properly credited; all records can be substantiated by original source documents in the permanent record file. The observers and contributors for this report are as follows: Alan Anderson, Cindy Alberico, Ed Anderson, Louise Augustine, Alan Branhagen, David Bohlen, Marge Bjorklund (MBj), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), Renee Baade (RBa), Karin Cassel, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Larry David, Myrna Deaton, Sheryl De Vore, Carolyn Fields, Brad Glover, Ann Haverstock, Barrie Hunt, Duane Heaton, James Herkert, Jim Hampson (JHa), James Hart (JHt), Mary Hennen, Ralph Herbst, David Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Fred Kase, Vernon Kleen, James Landing, Steven Lee, Bill Moskoﬀ, Cindy McKee (CMc), David Mandell, David Miller (DMi), Joe Milosevich, John McKee (JMc), Judy Mellin (JMe), Keith McMullen, Margo Milde, Walter Marcisz, Clark Olson, Lawrence O'Neal, Dale Pontius, Judy Pollock, Peter Petersen, Kevin Richmond, Al Stokie, Brad Semel, James Smith, Jeff Sunberg (JSn), Joe Suchecki (JSu), Leonard Stanley, Mark Seiffert, Mary Sidney (MSi), Richard Sandburg, Scott Simpson, Wes Serafin, Craig Thayer, Doris Westfall, Eric Walters, Evelyn Walters (EvW), Gil Waldbauer, Geoff Williamson (GWi), and Jeff Walk.

As standard policy, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations.