

## **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus axillaris*

*Up in the sky*  
*All year round*



The **Black-shouldered Kite** is an elegant small bird of prey with white plumage and a grey back. As the name of the bird implies, the adult (right) has a dark shoulder patch and dark red eyes. Young birds (above) have a reddish-brown wash on the head and breast and brownish-orange eyes. It feeds on insects and small animals like mice or skinks. They are not common, but sometimes they are seen hunting around the Bluff or along the dune area, often hovering in a stationary position waiting to spot any movement below.

**Beak-to-tail:** 35 – 38 cm

**Wingspan:** 80 – 95 cm

