

# Yellow-throated Warbler Nests in Winnebago County

by Dan Williams

Birds fell from the sky in Winnebago County as a front began delivering a cold drizzle during the spring bird count, May 8, 1982. A group of us was scouting Four Lakes Forest Preserve, an old fish hatchery surrounded by farm fields, and a good migrant trap.

Marian Doyle spotted the bird. "Yellow-throated Warbler! Hurry up!" she called.

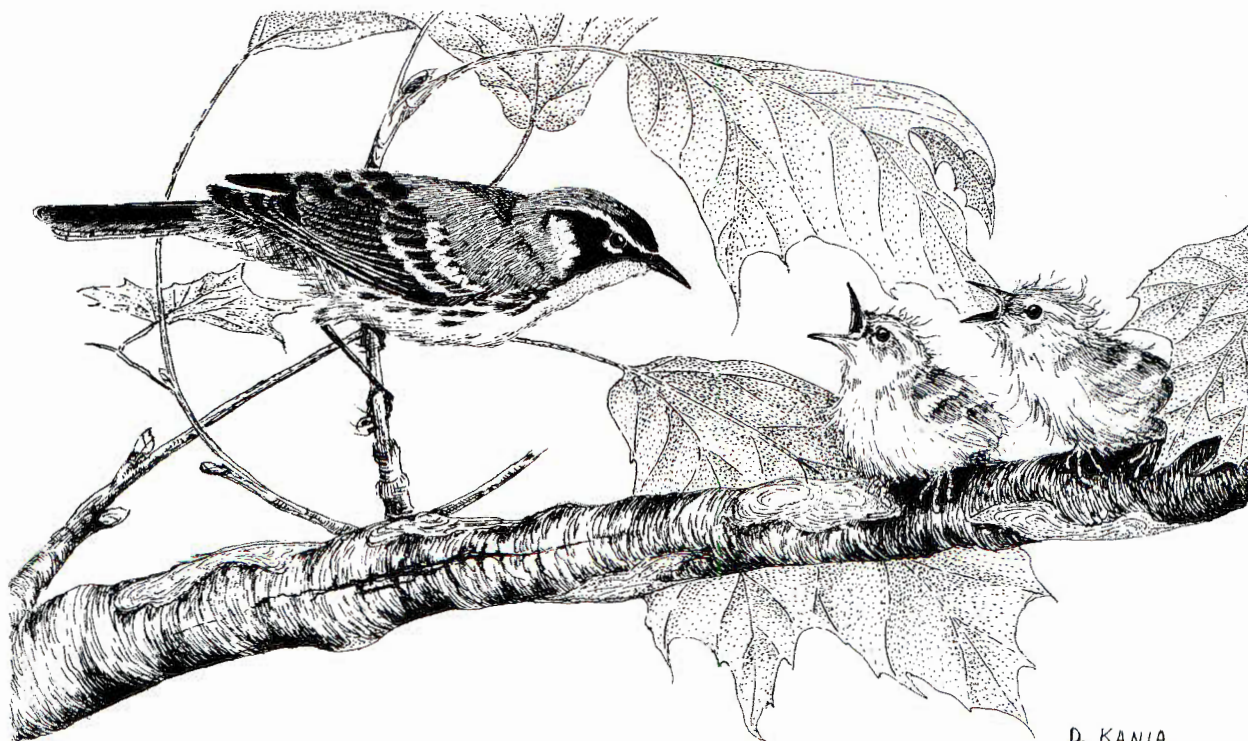
Everyone saw a brilliant male

with its bright yellow throat and distinct black and white facial markings. It was an exciting find since the bird is regarded as a rare spring migrant in northern Illinois. Yet, twelve miles away at approximately the same time on the same day, spring bird counters were seeing another male Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). The species apparently moved into Winnebago County that day and

has returned every year since, often remaining throughout the breeding season to nest.

Observers have seen the warblers from late April through August, sometimes into early September. In the spring of 1982, the county had four records.

The first confirmed nesting record was made on July 5, 1982, when I saw an adult carrying food to young at the nest in the Sugar



D. KANIA

Yellow-throated Warbler with young. Drawing by Denis Kania.