

Black-and-white Warblers. Forest species such as Veeries and Kentucky Warblers also used older clearcuts. The edges of the clearcuts had occasional pairs of Black-billed Cuckoos, Summer Tanagers, and American Redstarts to enhance diversity even further. The mix of clearcuts, conifers, hardwoods, and northern and southern birds was such that I gave up trying to predict what I would hear every morning.

In contrast to the diverse and unusual bird communities of the clearcuts and conifers, the birds of the heavily logged hardwoods communities were relatively depauperate of birdlife. Although Veeries, Wood Thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-eyed Vireos, and Ovenbirds were reasonably common and widespread, many other species were rarer than expected. Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Cerulean, Worm-eating, Hooded, and Kentucky Warblers, and most woodpeckers were present, but only in small numbers.

The relative lack of oak/hickory forest birds was all the more obvious in comparison with the richer forest bird communities of the George B. Fell Nature Preserve (Castle Rock State Park) just across the Rock River. This less-disturbed forest contained significant populations of Least and Acadian Flycatchers, Cerulean and Hooded Warblers, American Redstarts, and Scarlet Tanagers. Blue-winged and Canada Warblers also nested in natural fen habitat in the preserve, and Black-and-white Warblers nested in a naturally disturbed area. Steve Bailey even found a singing male Winter Wren here in late June.

The Lowden-Miller State Forest contains a bird community atypical for Illinois. The pines and clearcuts appear to lure northern species south and southern species north. The summer birding here is great, but it remains to be seen whether any of these populations are viable. The results of our studies may prove that migrant songbirds are highly capable of colo-

nizing appropriate habitat when it becomes available, but it also may show that many birds are susceptible to ecological "traps" that look like suitable habitat but fail to provide the safe nest sites and mates necessary for successful breeding.

### Getting there:

Finding Lowden-Miller State Forest and getting around inside is quite easy. Six parking lots and many miles of maintained trails are open to the public for hiking and cross-country skiing. Parking lot locations are shown on the accompanying map.

Lowden-Miller State Forest is located just south of Castle Rock

State Park and the Rock River near Routes 2 and 64 near Oregon, Illinois.

For more information, contact  
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