

include one in Dent County, Missouri, approximately five counties west of where the Mississippi River runs through southern Illinois (Robbins and Easterla, 1992). Mumford and Keller (1984) mentioned a 1976 successful nesting in Daviess County, southern Indiana (the nest was located in a cornfield's lone sycamore) just two counties east of the Wabash River and Illinois. Although there are no positive breeding records for Illinois, the chances are good that it will not be long before the state has its first breeding confirmation of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

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### Loggerhead Shrikes and Upland Sandpipers nest at Joliet Arsenal, Will County

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From 1 May through 15 July 1993, Illinois Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage biologists and their staff recorded 11 Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) nests on the 23,500-acre United States Army owned Joliet Arsenal Ammunition Plant property. The nests were located in grazed areas with scattered trees. The nests were found in osage orange, hawthorn, red cedar, and multiflora rose. The stick nests were lined with fine hair. Two nests were abandoned, eight nests fledged young and one nest had unknown success. Loggerhead Shrike is a state-threatened species and is a federal candidate for threatened status.

Fifty-five Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) were also found during a 12-14 May 1993 survey. At least 25 young Upland Sandpipers were fledged by 1 July 1993 (see breeding season field notes). The sandpipers also used the grazed areas at the arsenal. However, these birds nested on the ground in introduced Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome grass. Upland Sandpiper is a state-endangered species.

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*Editor's Note: The Joliet Arsenal Ammunition Plant is being decommissioned, efforts are being made to protect this area for endangered and threatened flora and fauna by the Illinois Department of Conservation, Illinois Audubon, Des Plaines Area User's Coalition, Openlands, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. IOS supports these efforts.*

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### Solitary Vireo breeding evidence in Iroquois County

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On a rainy morning, 8 June 1993, I was surveying a recently burned black oak woods in Iroquois County Conservation Area near Beaverville when I noticed a pair of Solitary Vireos (*Vireo solitarius*) along the side of a road about 20 feet up in the oaks. For 15 minutes I observed the male vireo actively courting the female, displaying vigorously and singing very close to her. He also appeared to twice feed her an insect.

The female carried nest material from perch to perch, picking dead oak twigs, but never took the nesting material to a nest site during my observations. The habitat was recently burned dry sandy woods, a habitat similar to which the two confirmed nesting records for the state were established (Bohlen 1989). Bjorklund (1979, 1980) found two nests at Sand Ridge Forest in central Illinois with both nests failing due to cowbird predation.

The species' closest normal northern breeding range is in upper north-eastern and north-central Minnesota (Janssen 1987), northern Wisconsin (Robbins 1991) and the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan south on the west side of the state to Kalamazoo and Allegan counties (Brewer et al. 1991). Solitary Vireos also breed in the southeastern mountains of Kentucky (Monroe et al. 1988). Recent confirmed nesting records exist for Indiana (Mumford and Keller 1984) as far south as Brown County. Robbins and Easterla (1992) listed only one summer record for Missouri. These observations of Solitary Vireo confirmed another interesting occurrence of extralimital breeding in Illinois.

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### New breeding records for Will County

During the 1993 breeding season, I found and photographed definitive evidence of breeding by three species which were previously unknown to have bred in Will County: Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*), and Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). The literature I consulted (Bohlen, 1989; Fawks, 1975; Ford, 1956;