

eral other birders saw the bird later that morning swimming in Crabtree Lake and sunning itself on the shore.

Although at times difficult to find, the cormorant was reported at both locations through 17 July 1992 and was seen by a large number of Chicago area birders, including nearly all of the Cook County big year participants.

- John O'Brien, S. Ellis Ave. #2, Chicago, IL 60615.

Neotropic Cormorant at Lake Renwick

On 6 July 1992 I photographed for the second time in six years a Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) at Lake Renwick located 1 1/2 miles southeast of Plainfield off U.S. Route 30 in Will County. The cormorant had sooty brown upper parts and lighter brown underparts. It exhibited prominent white neck plumes, a slender tail, and a small, peach-colored gular pouch outlined by a somewhat inconspicuous white border. Apparently, this cormorant matched the basic description of the Neotropic Cormorant that was present in the Palatine Marsh and Crabtree Lake area of Cook County from 28 June through 17 July 1992. These two cormorants represent the fourth and fifth state reports for Illinois.

The first record was that of a specimen taken near Cairo on 10 July 1878 (Bohlen 1989, *The Birds of Illinois*). The second record was of one in alternate (breeding) plumage that I discovered and photographed at Lake Renwick in 1986. I monitored this bird's presence in the Plainfield/Joliet/Chanahan area from 22 Aug. through 5 Oct. 1986. An unconfirmed third record from Fermilab, Du Page

County, in 1989 is currently under review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC).

- Joe B. Milosevich, 2337 Ardaugh Avenue, Crest Hill, IL 60435.

Editor's note: The Lake Renwick and Crabtree Lake records are still pending review by IORC. Interestingly, Minnesota recorded its first state record during the summer of 1992 (The Loon 64:3, pp. 176-178).

Nesting Common Snipe at Wadsworth Prairie

On 14 May 1992 I found a Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) nest at Wadsworth Prairie in Lake County about one-half mile north of Wadsworth Road and 100 feet west of some railroad tracks. While working at the site as a Nature Conservancy volunteer checking flowering prairie plants, I flushed a Common Snipe from a tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) hummock located in the center of the lowest and wettest portion of the 200-300 acre prairie. Spring cress (*Cardamine bulbosa*) was flowering in this hummock and a small cluster of 6-foot-high willow shrubs was located approximately 50 feet from the nest site. The next day I returned to the site and photographed the nest and four eggs. I got quite close to the incubating female before she flushed. She fluttered through the sedges, giving a "broken-wing" act and some distraction or alarm calls. When she was 20 feet away, she left.

The Common Snipe is a rare summer resident in Illinois. Bohlen (1989, *The Birds of Illinois*) gives egg dates but cites only one actual nest for the state, a nest with young at Illinois

Beach State Park, Lake County on 21 May 1972. Because this species is listed as a game species by the Illinois Department of Conservation, it cannot be classified as a threatened or endangered breeding bird.

- James F. Steffen, 4210 Birch Dr., Apt. 2C, Zion, IL 60099.

Nesting Acadian Flycatchers in Joliet

In 12 years (1980 - 91) of June and July birding in Joliet's Pilcher Park, Will County, I had managed to locate only one Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*), a singing male on 6 June 1984. I was never able to rationalize this species' absence during the summer, because Pilcher Park's 327 acres of lush, ravine-cut upland and bottomland forests appear to be prime breeding habitat for this forest interior species. In fact, the Acadian Flycatcher was collected as a breeding species in the Pilcher Park area during the early 1900s by Meinke, Dewey, and Swarth for the Field Museum of Natural History (Joliet Park District, *Birds of the Arboretum and Adjacent Park Lands*, Third Annual Report, 1926).

Summer 1992 may, however, have marked the return of the Acadian Flycatcher to its former breeding haunts in Pilcher Park. During the period 8 June to 19 July, I found singing males at four locations and three nests and two females at two of these locations.

At the first location, one female Acadian Flycatcher apparently built two nests about 10 feet apart on opposite sides of a sloping blacktop path located in an upland ravine. Both nests were placed in modest-sized