

maples about nine and 10 feet above the edges of the path. The nests were built in outer forks of horizontal branches. The first nest, located on 8 June, appeared incomplete even for a species whose nest typically resembles hanging debris. An untended second nest found on 19 July was much bulkier. Although I was quite certain the first nest was never used, the outcome of the second nesting remains unknown.

At a second location on 19 July, adult Acadian Flycatchers were observed feeding young in a nest. This nest was built in classic Acadian Flycatcher "cup and streamer" fashion. The nest was placed 15 feet high in the crown of a small elm located in a deep ravine of an upland area.

These nestings will hopefully initiate a return of the Acadian Flycatcher to its historical breeding grounds in Pilcher Park.

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## Alder Flycatchers at Volo Bog and Spring Lake Nature Preserve

As the herbarium volunteer at Volo Bog State Natural Area at Ingleside, Lake County, I spend a great deal of time during spring and summer studying and enjoying the rare plants along the boardwalk, which passes through the heart of the bog. During late spring and into summer, I have also noted the resident and migrant birds that can be seen and heard there, some of which are rather uncommon elsewhere. On 28 May 1992, at about 10:00 a.m. on a bright, clear warm day, I was pleased to hear repeatedly the distinctive

"tree-BEEP!" of an Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*), my first for the 1992 season at Volo Bog. Although I was unable to see the bird, I heard it calling from the dense brushes across the center of the bog. This site was obviously a choice one for this particular individual, as I also noted him repeatedly singing from the same location on 4 June, 18 June, and 2 July. I also recorded a singing Alder Flycatcher at Volo Bog several times in June 1991.

Approximately 14 miles south of Volo Bog is the 560-acre Spring Lake Nature Preserve in Barrington Hills, Cook County where I have been a volunteer steward since 1986. I spent the mornings of 10 June and 12 June 1992 collecting data for the Cook County Nesting Season Bird Census conducted by the Chicago Audubon Society.

Among the 62 species recorded at Spring Lake during those two days were five singing Alder Flycatchers on 10 June and three on 12 June in the brushy dogwood border along the marsh and sedge meadow extending east from Bateman Road. I also heard two singing Alders at the same location on 28 May and again on 18 June while brush cutting and clover pulling along the marsh border. Unfortunately, I was not able to spend the time necessary to confirm their nesting status at Spring Lake. I will attempt to do so in 1993. The habitat available seems ideal for this species, and the territorial song behavior noted in 1992 suggests nesting.

- Margo Milde, 1206 Raleigh, Glenview, IL 60025.

*Editor's Note: Bohlen (1989, The Birds of Illinois) cites Graber et al. (1974, Illinois Birds: Tyrannidae, Illinois Natural History Survey Bio-*

*logical Notes 86.) that there is no firm evidence for this species nesting in Illinois. "Firm evidence" refers to Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas criteria such as nest building, nest with eggs, adults carrying food for young, an adult carrying a fecal sac, or an adult on a nest. Bohlen also said that "spring migration is late...extending into July." Perhaps mounting evidence such as these two reports and other past Volo Bog summer records might soon confirm breeding of this species in our state.*

## Red-breasted Nuthatches Feed Young at Illinois Beach State Park

On 5 July 1992 we saw two adult Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) at Illinois Beach State Park in Lake County in a small pine tree. These birds were 15 to 20 feet high feeding an immature bird that was performing the characteristic wing-fluttering begging act for food. This sighting was in the extensive stand of Austrian and Scotch pines approximately 250 yards south of the Dead River and 200 yards west of Lake Michigan. These birds were seen at a distance of 20-25 feet for three to five minutes. Bohlen (1989, *The Birds of Illinois*) considers this species a rare summer resident and cites one summer record from Lake County (also IBSP) on 10 July 1981.

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