

an hour. As if on stage, the Western was on the telephone wire just two poles east of the initial point of discovery. Through the binoculars I could detect the details noted above and also the white tail edges.

I returned to the office and called Todd Fink and Roger Hayes. Fink suggested I return to see if I could locate a nest.

After work, I did not locate a nest, but I did find two Westerns bickering. I had heard them call before, but had never seen them chasing and fighting over insects. They were sitting on the wires over the Metro Link trail tracks and flycatching over a scrubby area of sumac, elm, and numerous weeds.

According to Bohlen (1989, *The Birds of Illinois*) Western Kingbirds have been found summering in Madison County near Alton, Illinois within the last 10 years and many summer records from the St. Louis area have been documented in Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992).

A few days later, Dan Kasebaum and Al Seipe discovered at least seven Western Kingbirds at the same site. Kasebaum observed more than one pair of adults, so it is likely that two nesting pairs were present. Fink, Mark Sieffert, Mike Sieffert, and many others from Illinois and Missouri also saw the very cooperative birds.

They were still present the first week of August. Kasebaum also found several Western Kingbirds south of East St. Louis in Sauget, Illinois in early August. The Sauget Western Kingbird sightings were likely birds that dispersed from the East St. Louis site after nesting.

Special thanks are due Dan Kasebaum for calling H. David Bohlen and Dick Anderson and for presenting detailed information for the Central Illinois and St. Louis area bird hotlines.

Editor's Note: See the article, New Early Records of the Western Kingbird in Illinois, in this issue for more information about this species' presence in the state.

LITERATURE CITED

Robbins, M. and D. Easterla. 1992. Birds of Missouri: their distribution and abundance. University of Missouri Press, MO.

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Chestnut-sided Warbler Nests in Cook County

During mid-June 1994 I located four singing male Chestnut-sided Warblers (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), apparently on territory. I was doing breeding censuses at Plum Creek Forest Preserve in extreme southeast Cook County. On 2 July, I could not relocate the singing males. However, at a different location, I found a female carrying material to

a nearly finished nest. A male chestnut-sided sang vociferously nearby. The nest was probably started in late June and finished by 3 July.

I returned 18 July to find a nest with three young. Judging by the lack of feathershafts on the juveniles, the young were only a few days old. I obtained photographs of the female and young on the nest. I do not know if the young successfully fledged, but this appears to be the first documented nesting occurrence for the species in Cook County in the last 100 years. In addition, this nest represents the first nest cycle for this species to



Male Chestnut-sided Warbler carrying caterpillar to young in nest at Plum Creek Forest Preserve, Cook County. 2 July 1994. Photo by Eric Walters.

be documented in Illinois for July.

The nest was attached to plants alongside a thorny thicket in second-growth vegetation bordering mature, bottomland woods and was located approximately 1 foot above ground. Surprisingly no cowbird parasitism was found.

The birds often entered the thicket about 10 or more feet away from the nest site and worked their way toward it unseen in the vegetation. The male was observed, on one occasion, bringing a green caterpillar to the female on the nest.

While this species apparently had a healthy breeding population statewide in the late 1800s, a search of the literature produced only 13 Illinois nest records during the last 100 years. Most of these records are from northeastern Illinois: 3 in Lake Co., 1949, 1966 and 1978 (Ford 1956, Mlodinow 1984); 1 in Will Co., 1956; one in Winnebago Co., 1958; and 5 in McHenry Co., 1962-66 (Graber 1983). A surprising downstate nest was discovered in Johnson Co., 1990 (Kleen 1990). A nest in Carroll Co. and a nest in Jo Daviess Co., 1992 represent the other two northern Illinois nest records (Kleen 1992).