

While not many chestnut-sided nests have been found in Illinois, breeding has been suspected at many sites. Nearly every summer singing males and/or pairs are reported by field observers. An unusually large population of this species, 20 to 40 males in clearcuts, was reported by Scott Robinson, Illinois Natural History Survey, in Ogle Co. during the summer of 1994.



Male Chestnut-sided Warbler defending nest at Plum Creek Forest Preserve, Cook County. 2 July 1994.
Photo by Eric Walters.

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Nesting Yellow-throated Warblers in Will County

Each year, prior to the Illinois Spring Bird Count, I scout a few of western Will County's birding hot spots. Before the 1994 count, I looked for warblers along the Des Plaines River.

On 2 May 1994 around noon I heard a male Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) singing from a small island in the I & M Canal, west of Channahon. After much neck straining, I not only glimpsed the elusive treetop singer, but was also rewarded with a second Yellow-throated Warbler. This second bird repeatedly visited a small cluster of branchlets in the crown of the closest of three large sycamores on the island.

The bird, undoubtedly a female, carried nesting material to an upright crotch site in the tree and one time, sat in it. The female was also observed weaving material in and around the branchlets. I observed the birds for about an hour with binoculars and a spotting scope.

On 7 May I relocated the pair. A subsequent visit the following week did not produce any Yellow-throated Warblers in the immediate area. Apparently, the nest had been abandoned. Although unsuccessful, this nesting attempt represents the first breeding record for this southern warbler, not only in Will County, but also in northeastern Illinois.

It should be noted that on 11 June 1990 about 20 miles downstream in extreme western Grundy County, I had previously located a Yellow-throated Warbler nest in a sycamore tree near the Illinois River. In north central Illinois, this warbler has also bred along the Sugar River in Winnebago County (Williams 1992).

Literature Cited

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