

female from a second nest approximately 50 yards from the first. Similarly, this newly constructed nest was about knee-high in an ash sapling in a more open area near the middle of the right-of-way. Using a stick to gently move aside the vegetation, I saw one warbler egg in the nest. I quickly retreated in order to avoid further disturbing the female.

On my last visit to the right-of-way on 11 July, the first nest still contained the two warbler eggs, but the second nest now contained only one cowbird egg and shell fragments. The female was nowhere to be seen. As I walked away from the second nest site, I passed near the spot where the male was occasionally singing an afternoon song.

The female flushed out of dense, waist-high vegetation at the edge of the woods where a third nest had been constructed. Although I never approached the nest closely, with the aid of a long stick, I was able to part the weedy growth just enough to surmise that the nest appeared to be completely constructed, but held no eggs. It was located between the first two nests, about equidistant between them. The female flushed from her third nest well in advance of my approach. With the first and second nests, I practically stepped on her before flushing her from the egg-bearing nests. I left quickly and never returned.

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

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*. Indiana University Press. Bloomington, IN.

Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook*. Simon and Schuster. New York.

Graber, J.W. and R.R. Graber. 1983. *Illinois Birds: wood warblers*. Illinois Natural History Survey Biological Notes No. 118. Champaign, IL.

Mlodinow, S. 1984. *Chicago Area Birds*. Chicago Review Press. Chicago, IL.

Thorn Creek Audubon Society. 1983. September - October newsletter 11:5.

Editor's Note: While documentation is necessary to confirm the nesting of a rare species, care must be taken not to interrupt a bird's breeding cycle. While every bird is different in its reaction to human presence, there is always the danger that the disturbance will hamper the bird's ability to produce young successfully.

It is true that songbirds such as the Chestnut-sided Warbler can not detect human presence by smell, but predators such as raccoons can detect the human smell and may be attracted to the nest site for that reason.

I strongly caution birders to take great care when observing birds regardless of whether it is for documentation purposes or enjoyment.

- Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor

First Successful and Third Confirmed Nesting of Black-necked Stilt in Illinois

After hearing of a sighting of Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) in Jackson County in late July, Vicki Van Tuyle and I went to visit the area. We arrived on 29 July 1995 at the southwestern corner of the county where Cemetery Road meets the levee of the Mississippi River. From the levee looking back east was a mostly dried, muddy slough.

We saw three stilts: two adults and a smaller bird that could have been a young bird since it appeared unable to fly, was not as tall, and had spindly, duller pink legs. The young bird also had a brown back, brown wings, and white stomach. We drove back down closer to the slough and got out of the car. As we approached the birds, the smaller bird ran with flapping wings into the grass and the adults attacked us, flying around, performing the broken wing trick, and calling loudly. Because the adults were having such a fit, we quickly returned to the car without relocating the young bird. The adults flew back to the slough. Driving north along the levee toward Grand Tower we saw a second pair of adult Black-necked Stilts, but no young.

This report represents the third confirmed nesting of Black-necked Stilt in Illinois, and the first young seen. The first record of nesting success occurred 4 June 1994 when Cynthia McKee found a Black-necked Stilt sitting on a nest, also in Jackson County near where the 1995 bird was found (McKee and Fink 1995). On 11 June, Todd Fink discovered a nest with four eggs at the same site, which he photographed. But no evidence of fledglings was ever found.

Fink also discovered up to six stilts in the flooded fields outside the levee in Jackson County between 19 June and 7 July 1993. Two more stilts were found 20 June 1993 east of Grand Tower Island. No nest was found, but observers witnessed distraction displays on 24 June 1993 (Fink 1994).

Meadowlark