

A second nest for Illinois was discovered by Kevin Richmond on 27 June 1994 190 miles north in Mason County at Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (Fink 1994).

These confirmed nesting records for Black-necked Stilt in Illinois could be part of a dramatic expansion of the species' breeding range that has been occurring in the neighboring states of Missouri and Kentucky (Robbins and Easterla 1992, Ball and Bennett 1993).

—H. David Bohlen
Illinois State Museum
Springfield, IL 62706

Literature Cited

Fink, T. 1994. Meadowlark 3:18. Breeding evidence for Black-necked Stilt in Jackson County.

McKee, C. And Fink, T. 1995. Meadowlark 4:6. First Confirmed Nesting of Black-necked Stilt in Illinois.

Palmer-Ball, M. B., and M. Bennet. 1993. First Reported Nesting of Black-necked Stilt in Kentucky. The Kentucky Warbler 69: 65-68.

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

High Count of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Territories in Lake County, Illinois

The summer of 1995, birders observed at least 31 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) territories in Lake County. Twenty-three were found near Millburn Township and seven were discovered at Ryerson Conservation Area - both during contracted breeding bird population surveys.

Bohlen (1989) listed the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher as a decreasing summer resident northward of southern Illinois and said few gnatcatchers nest north of Illinois. Mlodinow (1984) mentioned a high count of 15 birds at southeastern Michigan's Warren Woods, Beverly Shores, and New Buffalo areas on 15 June 1978. However, 21 territories were recorded in Cook County in early June 1994 (Kleen, 1995; fide A. Anderson).

A single site location in Lake County, Chain O'Lakes State Park held 13 individuals on 29 June 1991 (Kleen 1992). Recent breeding bird atlas data (R. Montgomery, in Litt.) and our recent summer breeding bird data along the Millburn Creek corridor in Lake County, Illinois, as well as Ryerson Conservation Area, also in Lake County, suggest that the species may be having good breeding success in northeastern Illinois. It may also be establishing itself as an increasingly more regular summer

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher drawing by Karen Becker.

