

can be distinguished in fresh plumage by its browner cheeks that do not contrast with the cap, lack of a gray nuchal collar, orange mouth lining, and different secondary color and tail pattern. The tail pattern is somewhat like that of a Great Crested in having the rufous color of the inner webs extending to the tail tip. Some individuals do show brown rectrix tips like an Ash-throated, but always have a broader stripe of brown along the feather shaft compared with the Ash-throated (Lan-yan, 1961). Howell and Webb (1995) state that Nutting's has more rufous-edged outer secondaries that contrast very little with the primaries.

The bird observed had gray cheeks lacking contrast with the throat, a gray nuchal collar, and yellowish secondary feather edges. This is a typical Ash-throated pattern

while Nutting's has brown cheeks with a gray throat, no nuchal collar, and rufous-edged outer secondaries. However, Bowers and Dunning (1987) note that Nutting's brown cheeks may become rather gray by December or January due to wear.

**Age:** All *Myiarchus* flycatchers have a juvenal plumage that differs from the adult plumage in several details, and is generally characterized by tail feathers with extensive rufous edges. The juvenal plumage is lost in a complete postjuvenal molt, so that juvenals cannot then be told from adults. However, the postjuvenal molt (and the complete prebasic molt in adults) is split, so that the juvenal flight feathers (wing and tail) are retained through migration and molted on the wintering grounds (Bent 1942, Pyle et al., 1987). The McCormick Place flycatcher was a

juvenal based on the wide rufous edgings of all the rectrices and upper tail coverts, as well as by the presence of a swollen fleshy gape. At the time of the first sighting, under heavily overcast skies, I did not appreciate the rufous edgings on the tail and thought the bird was an adult based on the extensive tail wear, and molt on the head, upper back, and lower breast. Based on subsequent sightings and discussions with several other observers, we concluded that the bird was in very worn juvenal plumage molting into first basic plumage.

The above details support the identification of the McCormick Place bird as a juvenal Ash-throated Flycatcher. Illinois observers are encouraged to carefully observe all *Myiarchus* flycatchers.

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