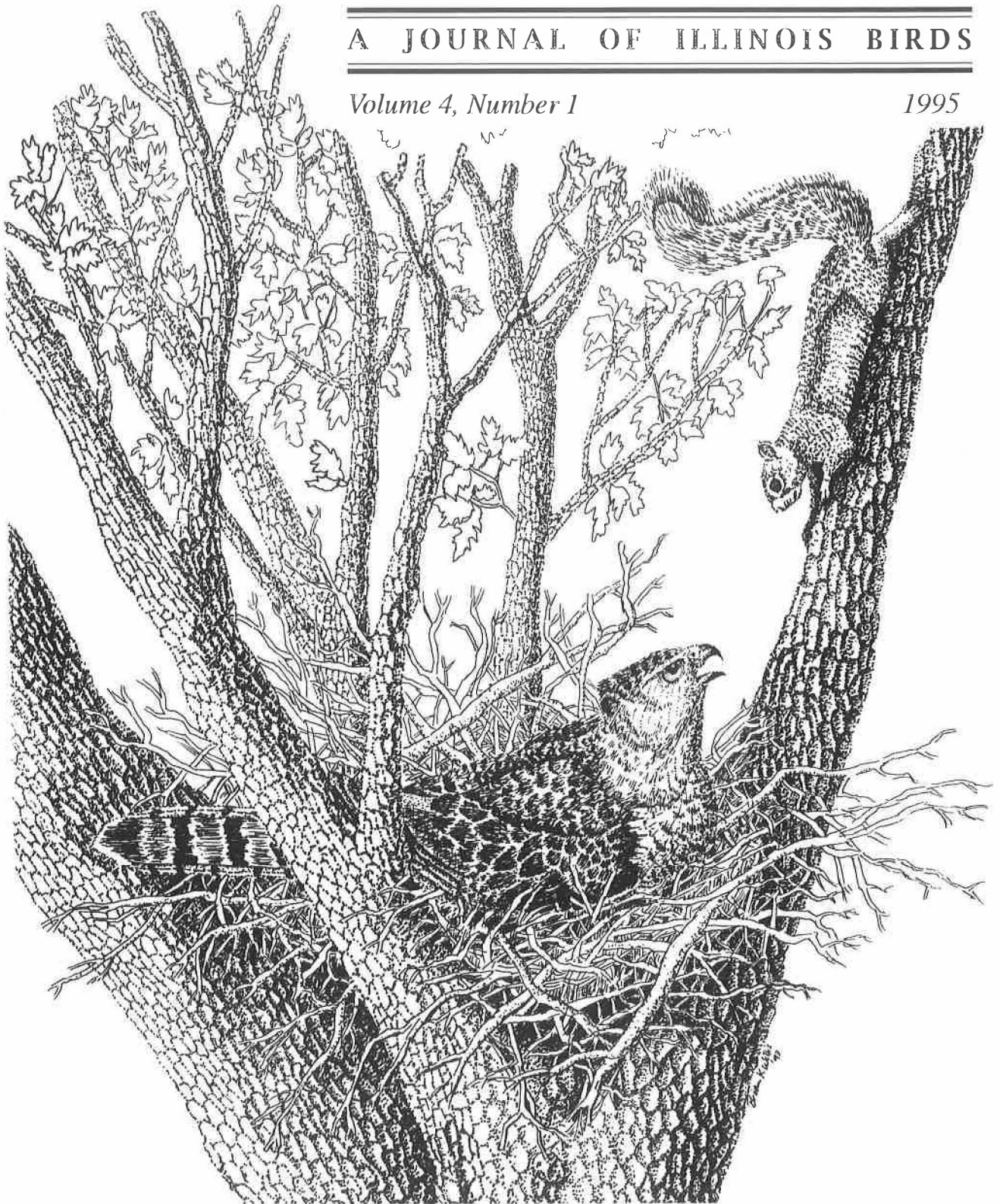


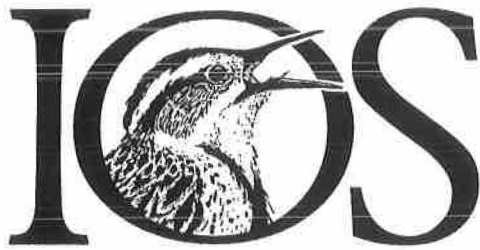
Meadowlark

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Letter from the editor

Meadowlark provides exclusive information

Birders are quite familiar with the fact that songbird population numbers are declining. They experience it on an emotional level when they go warbler watching in spring and reminisce about the good old days when the warblers were dripping out of the trees. Or they see an Ovenbird dropping caterpillars into the mouth of a Brown-headed Cowbird fledgling.

What many birders might not know is the latest research being done to explain this phenomenon and find solutions.

Meadowlark is the place where readers can find such exclusive information.

For instance, we featured Scott K. Robinson's work with neotropical migrants in the Shawnee National Forest in Volume 1 Number 1 and Volume 2 Number 4.

In this issue, we present two more pieces of the enigmatic puzzle of songbird population decline. One article by Gopaul Noojibail discusses research in eastern Pennsylvania regarding the relationship between Ovenbird breeding success and mammal abundance. This research has applications in Illinois as well as other states where Ovenbirds breed.

This is state-of-the-art first-time published information and as the saying goes, you read it here first.

Another article you won't want to miss is Robinson's piece on the rare summer birds of the Lowden-Miller State Forest. Illinois' first record of breeding Black-throated Green Warbler was found here. Robinson and his researchers also found breeding Chestnut-sided, Mourning, and Canada Warblers, Summer Tanagers, and Pine Siskins — a rare mix of northern and southern species.

The results of the studies may prove that migrant songbirds can colonize appropriate habitat when it is available, but further research might show that the site is just an ecological trap that looks like suitable habitat for successful breeding but really isn't.

We'll keep you posted. In the meantime, a trip to Lowden-Miller State Forest this summer should be on every Illinois birder's calendar.

Sheryl De Vore

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President's Message

You're new to Illinois, a beginning birder, or want to find a LeConte's Sparrow in the state. No problem. Just get your book, "A Bird Finding and Site Guide to Illinois." But there is no such book on your birding shelves. In fact, one doesn't exist.

When we organized IOS, we discussed someday publishing a site guide for Illinois. Similar books exist for nearby states such as Minnesota and Wisconsin. These guides help intrepid birders find the species they seek and also introduce them to new sites.

Perhaps it is time to begin thinking of a way to approach such a project for Illinois. A comprehensive guide would take a team of people to organize information and write, publish, and distribute the book. The process could take years to complete. Nevertheless, if you wish such a guide existed and are excited about becoming involved, let me know. Someday you may have the pleasure of sitting back in your favorite chair reading the book that you played a part in helping create.

Eric Walters

About our cover:

Staff illustrator Brian K. Willis drew the Cooper's Hawk at a nest site. Featured in this issue is an article about a successful nesting of Cooper's Hawk in Jackson Park near downtown Chicago.

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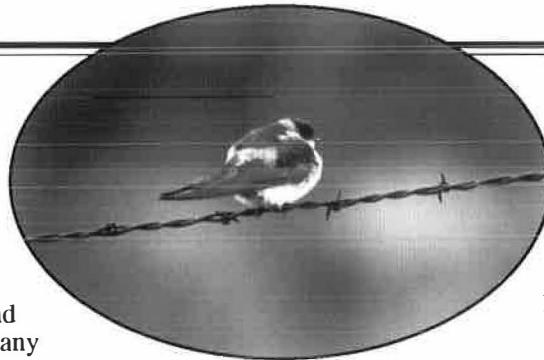
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First Hybridization Attempt Between A Violet-Green Swallow and Tree Swallow

by Lee G. Johnson and
William Moskoff

On 4 June 1994, Lee Johnson discovered a female Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) at his home in rural Shirland, Winnebago County, Illinois, 13 miles northwest of Rockford and 90 miles northwest of Chicago. Many observers saw the bird, and verification was obtained through photographs and a videotape.

Two prior Illinois records exist. One was a male collected 4 May 1897 in Chicago's Calumet region (Bohlen 1989), which was not accepted by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee because the specimen is no longer extant (R.E. Goetz in litt. to L.C. Binford). The other is a sight record 19 July 1991 at Wilmette in Cook County (Walters



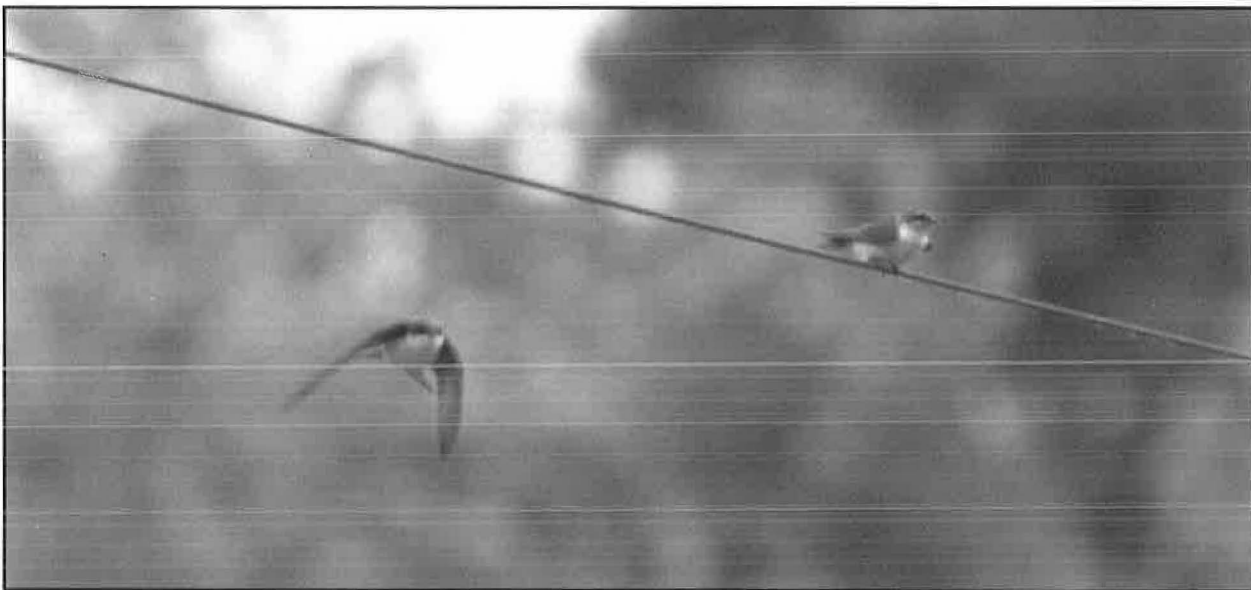
Female Violet-green Swallow perching near her nest box, 15 June 1994. Photo by David B. Johnson.

No other instance of hybridization between Violet-green Swallow and Tree Swallow is known.

1992), pending review by IORC. Elsewhere east of the Great Plains, the species is accidental in Minnesota, Missouri, Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, and Florida (Brown et al. 1992; DeSante and Pyle 1986).

Even more remarkable than this extralimital occurrence is the fact that the Shirland Violet-green Swallow attempted to hybridize with a male Tree Swallow (*T. bicolor*). No other instance of attempted hybridization between these two species is known (Phillips 1986). The only previous attempt by a Violet-green Swallow to mate with another swallow species is a record of a female copulating with a male Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) (Gullion 1947).

In the present case, the Tree Swal-



Male Tree Swallow (left) and its mate, a female Violet-green Swallow, 5 June 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

low had occupied a bluebird house less than a week before the Violet-green Swallow was discovered. The Violet-green Swallow, which was seen carrying nesting material into the bluebird box, built a cup-shaped nest of grass and lined with feathers. On 23 June two all-white eggs were found in the nest. The Tree Swallow perched at the box's entrance watching the incubating Violet-green Swallow.

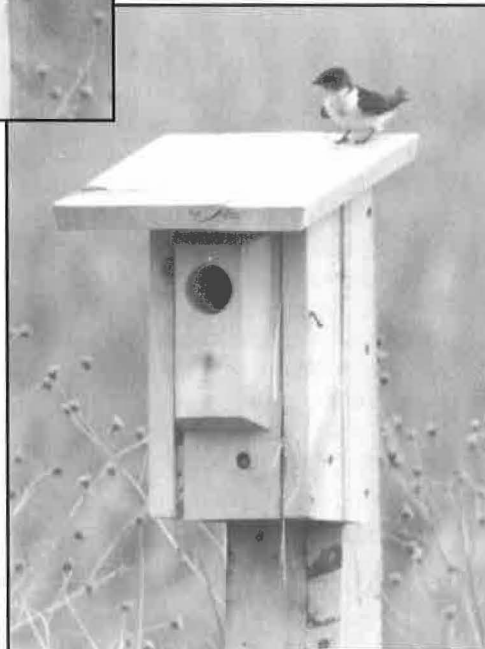
The nest was not checked again until 10 July, the last day the adults were seen. It contained a single egg with dehydrated contents.



Female Violet-green Swallow carrying nesting material to bluebird box in Winnebago County near Shirland, Illinois, 5 June 1994. This species paired with a male Tree Swallow and represents Illinois' first confirmed breeding record of Violet-green Swallow as well as first record of hybridization attempt between the two species. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



*Above:
Female Violet-green Swallow entering nest, 5 June 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.*



*Right:
Female Violet-green Swallow perching on bluebird box nest site, 5 June 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.*

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Immature Cooper's Hawks Nest in Chicago

by Paul R. Clyne

A remarkable success story was played out the summer of 1994, when two first-year Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) successfully reared three young in an urban Chicago lakefront park. Cooper's Hawks typically begin breeding at two years of age, but a small percentage of females breed in their first year. First-year breeding males are quite unusual, and pairs in which both sexes are immatures are almost unknown. I know of only three previous records of paired immatures, with one record each for California, Indiana, and Wisconsin (Palmer 1988, Rosenfield and Bielefeldt 1993).

First-year breeding males are quite unusual, and pairs in which both sexes are immatures are almost unknown.

Almost as surprising as this Illinois record for nesting first-year Cooper's Hawks is the nesting location - a half-mile wide urban park sandwiched between Chicago's busy Lake Shore Drive and Hyde Park's residential/business neighborhood. This species nests annually in forest preserves in Chicago's outskirts, but only one record from 1909 exists of Cooper's Hawks nesting in the city limits (Cory 1909).

The summer 1994 nesting occurred in Jackson Park, at about 6100 South on the Chicago lakefront on the Wooded Island designed for the Columbian Exposition of 1893. This man-made island is essentially an unmanicured park surrounded by la-

goons. Pedestrian traffic by birders, fishermen, joggers, and others occurs daily here. The nest-tree was at the intersection of the main paved path and one of the most heavily trafficked unpaved paths.

The nest was in a white mulberry, 41'8" (12.7 m) above ground, in a crook of the main trunk just below the canopy. The tree diameter at the nest site was 11.5" (29 cm). The nest was a rather flat, oblong construction of twigs; height, 10" (25 cm), width 32" x 14" (81 cm x 36 cm). The nest cavity was a shallow depression (1.5" (4 cm deep), lined with bark frag-

ments, and measured 10" x 7" (25 cm x 18 cm). The oblong shape was dictated by the branching structure at the nest site. Compared with synoptic data given in Rosenfield and Bielefeldt (1993), the nest placement was typical for the species, but the structure was flatter than normal for nests in deciduous trees, unusually elliptical, and with a notably shallow cavity. The birds were seen sporadically building nests at two adjacent sites during April. The chronology of nesting events is listed at right.

Size contrasts in the grown young indicated sex composition of the clutch as two males and one female. The Cooper's Hawks were found taking their usual toll of medium-sized

NESTING EVENTS

- 12 March - Female arrives.
- 30 March - Pair carries nesting material. Male is first detected.
- 1 April - Pair copulates (noted again 9 and 17 April).
- 1 May - Incubation begins. Sightings of male become increasingly infrequent. Only female incubates.
- 5 June - Young hatch (based on data on incubation period, typically 34-36 days and on cessation of incubation of nestlings at about 14 days; see Rosenfield and Bielefeldt 1993).
- 12 June - First visible evidence of brood success. Both parents are perched at nest while female apparently tears food.
- 19 June - Two downy young visible. Last incubation date.
- 20 June - Three downy young seen in nest.
- 7 July - One young ventures 2 feet out of nest.
- 11 July - Two young fledge.
- 12 July - Third young fledges.



Cooper's Hawk chick at Jackson Park, Chicago, Cook County, 20 June 1994. A pair of immature Cooper's Hawks nested at the park. Photo by Thomas Jackman.

birds, ranging from nestling European Starlings to adult Northern Flickers. Foraging was observed over the entire 2-mile stretch of Jackson Park, but some prey was taken within 300 feet of the nest, especially by the female. Over and above the damage done to bird populations by predation, the mere presence of Cooper's Hawks appeared to selectively dissuade nesting by medium-sized birds. Common Grackles and American Robins showed the most visible reduction, with summering pairs at as much as 40% below par. Other species with nesting pairs below normal included Northern Flicker, American Crow, Gray Catbird, and Brown Thrasher.

These reduced populations were especially striking when contrasted with nesting populations for smaller passerines, such as swallows, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Song Sparrow, which showed healthy numbers of summering pairs. Nesting populations of Green Herons and waterfowl (Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard) were also stable to high. Northern Cardinals showed a sound population of summering adults, but young were not discerned until the first week of July, a month later than expected.

Few prey items were identified to species, but field tallies suggest

that American Robins may have suffered the greatest measurable losses, even given their under-par nesting population with post-breeding (mid-July) tallies about 65% below normal. Starlings were doubtless another major food source, but their breeding population was large enough to absorb the losses with little discernible reduction in numbers. One pair of nesting Eastern Kingbirds had at least three altercations with the hawks and eventually abandoned their territory, or were devoured.

The Cooper's Hawks aggressively defended their territory within a radius of about 200 feet from Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great

Blue Herons. American Crows seen very frequently within 100-200 feet of the nest site were surprisingly tolerant of the hawks, with very few confrontations. Unexpected conviviality was noted 1 August, when a juvenile male hawk was seen keeping company with a flock of five crows on a grassy game field. Neither species attempted to drive the other away, but the hawk periodically engaged one of the crows in a brief bout of wrestling, the whole affair being quite reminiscent of rough housing among a den of puppies.



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Acknowledgments

In addition to my own observations, data included here were supplied by Douglas Anderson, Karin Cassel, Thomas Jackman, and Dale Pontius. Other birders witnessed the nesting at various stages. Special thanks are due Thomas Jackman who obtained nest measurements and photographs.

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First Confirmed Nesting of Black-necked Stilt in Illinois

by Cynthia McKee and Todd Fink

Nine northern Illinois Starved Rock Audubon members headed in early June 1994 to southern Illinois for a birding trip, led by John and Cynthia McKee. When they arrived in Jackson County, Todd Fink told them that he had discovered Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) at Grand Tower, the same place he saw them the summer of 1993 and where he suspected they were breeding (Fink 1994). The group, wanting to add the stilts to their Illinois state bird lists, agreed to search for the stilts.

The tour headed into the Jackson County bottoms at 1 p.m. on 4 June. They traveled along Route 3, just north of the Big Muddy River Bridge. Low farm fields in the area are part of the levy system of the Mississippi River and were still partly submerged in water from the previous year's flood. East of Route 3, the group crossed the wet farm fields and climbed onto the levy. McKee spotted the first of the five Black-necked Stilts from the lead car right at the water's edge!

The group slowly got out of their

cars to set up scopes which were hardly necessary since the birds were so close. Several birders added the species to their life list. All enjoyed the striking black and white shore-



Illinois' first Black-necked Stilt nest with four eggs, 11 June 1994. Photo by Todd Fink.

birds. As the group viewed the birds at close range through scopes, McKee scanned the surrounding fields. Some distance from the water's edge and the other birds, she noticed a single Black-necked Stilt hunkered down, apparently sitting on a nest. A view through the scope confirmed her suspicions. She controlled the urge to confirm the nest since the group had plans to tour several other areas before darkness fell.

McKee's discovery of the nesting bird brought the number of Black-necked Stilts to six the summer of 1994, matching the number reported by Robert Danley the summer of 1993 (Fink 1994) at the same location.

After returning to her home in Ottawa, Illinois, McKee researched the nesting habits of stilts and contacted Todd Fink.

On 11 June, Fink searched for the nest at the Jackson County site. One of the adults walked into sparse vegetation of *Amaranthus* sp. and *Polygonum* sp. growing in the uncultivated field about 12 m. from the water's edge and assumed an incubation posture. Fink mentally marked the site and walked around

the flooded area to the general location. The adults became agitated and Fink quickly found and photographed the nest with four eggs, then promptly left the site.

Fink also found a single egg on the mud about 8 meters from the water's edge. No nest was nearby. Eight days later, Fink, again, revisited the site. Unfortunately no evidence of the birds could be found and the field, in which the stilts had nested,

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had been sprayed to prepare for planting. No remnants of the nest or eggs could be found. The stilts did not return to this site that summer.

Interestingly, a second nest for Illinois and possibly the northernmost for interior North America was discovered by Kevin Richmond on 27 June 1994 approximately 190 miles north in Mason County at Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge just northeast of Havana off one of the lake's mid-levees. This nest contained two eggs and was observed by many birders through 1 July 1994. Unfortunately high water destroyed the nest on 3 July 1994.

These two 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 just to the south and west in the neighboring states of Missouri and Kentucky (Robbins and Easterla 1992, Palmer-Ball and Bennett 1993).



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A Relationship Between Songbird Breeding Success, Small Mammal Abundance, and Fragmented Forests in Eastern Pennsylvania

by Gopaul Noojibail

The Problem

Initially, recorded population declines of neotropical migrant songbirds that breed in North America were attributed to loss of wintering habitat in Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies (Morton 1980, Ambuel and Temple 1983). Because these birds often congregate within tropical forests for over half the year, researchers believed that habitat loss resulting from widespread tropical deforestation would have detrimental effects on wintering populations leaving fewer birds to return north and reproduce (Askins et al. 1990).

Further study suggested that loss of nesting habitat in North America is also significantly contributing to the recorded population declines (Whitcomb et al. 1981). Extensive clear-cutting has reduced once large, uninterrupted tracts of forest to woodland "islands" isolated by "seas" of agriculture and suburban development (Robbins et al. 1986). From the perspective of many forest-interior songbirds, these fragmented matrices are less than optimal nesting habi-

tat and considerably more hostile than the large forests in which many of these birds have evolved (Askins et al. 1990). The reduced breeding success of several neo-tropical species such as tanagers, warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers has been associated with external pressures resulting from the small sizes of forest fragments (Whitcomb et al. 1981, Wilcove 1985, Robbins et al. 1989).

Small mammals
were significantly
more abundant in
small forests
compared with
large forests.

There has been some success in identifying the mechanisms that lead to depressed songbird reproductive success. Although in most cases a combination of factors are believed to affect the avifauna, two major factors have been repeatedly identified (Whitcomb et al. 1981, Wilcove 1985). One is a high incidence of brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) that has been recorded in and near forest edges as this species continues to expand its range eastward (Brittingham and Temple 1983). The other factor, depredation of nests by a variety of animals, has been found to limit reproductive success of songbirds in small forests (Wilcove 1985, Martin

1987, Yaincr and Scott 1988). Both of these factors have become serious obstacles to songbirds, hampering breeding efforts in extremely fragmented nesting habitats of the midwest (Brittingham and Temple 1983, Robinson 1992).

Attempts have been made not only to identify predators of songbird nests but also to assess the degree of impact predation has on songbird breeding efforts. Research has identified members of the corvid family (jays and crows), grackles (*Quiscalus spp.*), a variety of mammals (e.g. raccoons, opossums, mice, chipmunks, squirrels), and snakes (e.g. black rat (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*) and black racer (*Coluber constrictor*) as potential threats to eggs and nestlings (Ricklefs 1969, Wegner and Mirriam 1979, Angelstam 1986, Martin 1987, Shaffer 1991, Andren 1992).

A Predator's View

Current theories suggest that many nest predators are generalists/ omnivores, opportunistically robbing nests as they are encountered (Andren et al. 1985, Angelstam 1986). To actively search for nests would cost most predators more energy than they would ultimately gain. It is believed that although nutritious, eggs and nestlings comprise only a small percentage of a predator's total food consumption; possibly being as low as one percent in some incidences (Angelstam 1986). Theoretically, there should be little evolutionary benefit to specializing with a specific nest searching strategy as nests are often irregularly distributed over an area due to avian territoriality and are only available during a small window of time over the course of the year (Smith and Shugart 1987).

Though nests are probably not being expressly targeted by predators in most cases, increased predator densities often resulting from the

animals' ability to easily penetrate fragmented woodlots and/or concentrate search efforts along forest edges can directly reduce songbird breeding success (Angelstam 1986, Andren and Angelstam 1988, Andren 1992).

Andren and Angelstam (1988) suggested that the frequency of nest predation by a particular species would be proportional to the relative abundances of this species within the fragment. In theory, potential predator species found in high abundances should be exerting the most pressure on songbird breeding efforts. Their research supported this hypothesis (Angelstam 1986, Andren 1992).



The Research

During the spring and summer of 1993, I was involved in part of a long-term project at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania investigating the effects of forest fragmentation on songbird reproductive success. The project entailed monitoring Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) breeding success over several years in both fragmented landscapes and large tracts of forest. This species is being studied because it has been identified as being sensitive to habitat fragmentation (Pomeluzi et al. 1993).

In addition to monitoring breed



Ovenbird at Kankakee River State Park, Will County, 5 June 1991. This species is declining in Illinois and other states such as Pennsylvania. Research is being done nationwide to understand the reasons and find solutions. The pictured Ovenbird was defending fledged cowbirds when Joe B. Milosevich took these photos.

ing success, we attempted to discern whether a relationship existed between potential predator abundance and songbird breeding success in relation to forest size. Specifically, in forests where Ovenbird breeding success was low, was there a higher abundance of a predator species than in forests where breeding success was high? I focused on mammalian species, specifically small rodents, that had previously been identified as nest predators (Ricklefs 1969, Wegner and Mirriam 1979). The abundance of other potential predators was not measured due to constraints in time, person-power, and funding.

The study, though conducted and based in the eastern United States, has relevance nationwide as habitat fragmentation in America has been extreme and neotropical migrant population declines have been detected in many areas of the country including Illinois (Ricklefs 1969, Whitcomb et al. 1981, Robbins et al. 1989, Robinson 1992).

Methodology

Six study plots were located in forests ranging from 18.7 to >10,000 hectares in total area. These plots were split into two size classes, large (>100 ha) and small. The cut-offs for plot sizes were determined using information from studies done on minimum habitat requirements of songbirds (Robbins et al. 1989). All



sites were characterized by second growth, mixed-deciduous, oak dominated forest and all forest fragments were isolated from similar habitats by suburban development, agricultural fields, highways, or a combination of these.

We assessed the breeding success of Ovenbirds by monitoring color banded males and noting the presence or absence of mates and young during the breeding season (mid-May to mid-August). The decision was made not to search actively for nests because we believed this activity would put the nests at a greater risk of being detected by predators (Major 1989, Vickery et al. 1992). Furthermore, parental behavior of Ovenbirds precluded the need to locate nests. Since male and female Ovenbirds care for young (see Porneluzi et al. 1993), a male with fledged young was interpreted as successful.

Mammalian abundance on each plot was obtained by live-trapping along transects which ran through the middle of each plot. During the course of the season, 40 traps were set for three consecutive days at three different times over the songbird breeding season (one trap open for one 24 hour period = 1 trap-night; 360 trap-nights/fragment; 1080 trap-nights/size-class). One site of each size class was trapped per week although no two plots were trapped in consecutive weeks.

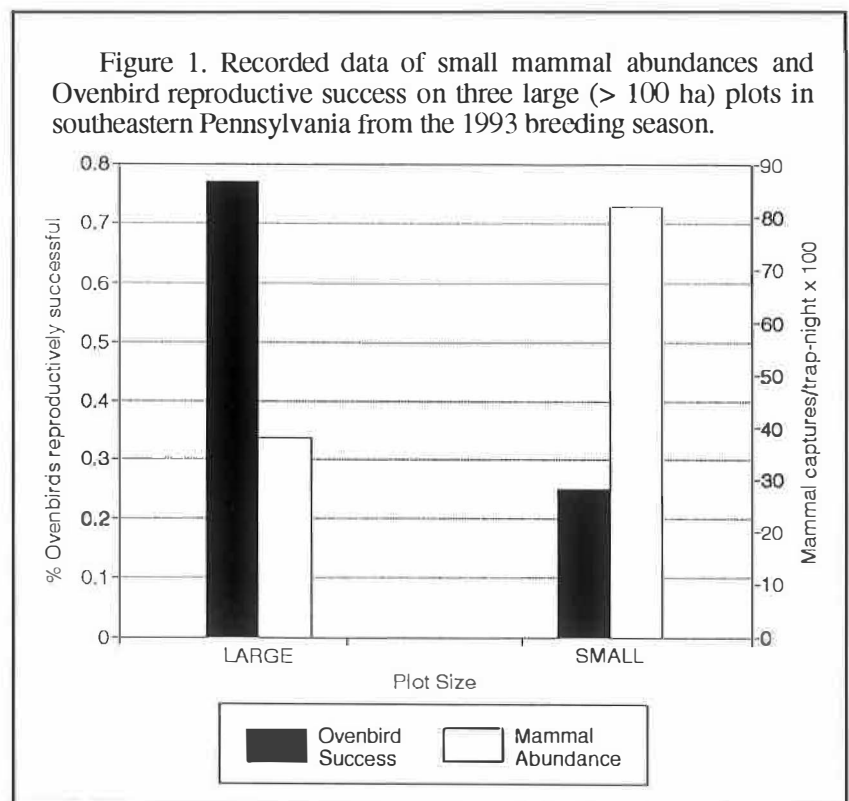
Traps were checked in the early morning (by 0830). To distinguish captures between trap days, each individual was marked on the abdomen with a non-toxic permanent marker. This enabled me to tally a total num-

ber of captures over three days and not count any one animal twice. Additionally, the weight, sex, and age (when possible) of each individual caught was recorded. The relative abundance (RA) of each species was calculated as the proportion of the actual number of individual animals caught on a given plot versus the total number of trap-nights multiplied by one hundred; RA per plot = [(total number of animals caught-recaptures)/(number traps-sprung traps)] x 100.

Chi-square tests, analyses that test for proportional differences between variables, were run on the RA to separately compare mammal abundances and Ovenbird breeding success in large and small forests.

The results suggest a possible relationship between the small mammal community and songbird breeding success in small forests.

Figure 1. Recorded data of small mammal abundances and Ovenbird reproductive success on three large (> 100 ha) plots in southeastern Pennsylvania from the 1993 breeding season.



Results and Discussion

Results suggested that the numerical differences of both Ovenbird breeding success and small mammal abundance found in large and small forests were statistically significant. While Ovenbird breeding success was extremely low in small, fragmented forests (25% success), success was relatively high on the larger study sites (77% success) (Goodrich et al. unpubl. data) (Figure 1). These results agreed with other studies and further supported the idea that small forest size and associated edges resulting from habitat fragmentation may negatively effect reproductive success of nesting Ovenbirds.

Small mammals were significantly more abundant in small forests compared with large forests (Noojibail et al. unpubl. data) (Figure 1). Examination of the differences in small mammal community composition in the different size forests indi-

cated that the diversity of species captured was low for both forest size classes. Five species were captured with white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) being the most abundant on all plots. Eastern chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*), grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*), flying squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*), and meadow

voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) were trapped less frequently (Figure 2).

Reasons for the high overall abundance of small mammals in fragmented matrices are speculative though there is evidence that the dispersal of many small mammals from

Figure 2

Numerical distribution of small mammal species captured on large (>100 ha) and small plots over a period of 108 trap-nights per size class from mid-May to mid-August 1993 in eastern Pennsylvania.

SPECIES	LARGE	SMALL
White-footed mouse	133	292
Eastern Chipmunk	1	25
Grey Squirrel	2	0
Southern Flying Squirrel	1	0
Meadow Vole	2	0
Total	139	317

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Nesting Pied-billed Grebes at Crabtree Marsh

by Annalce Fjellberg
and Adam Fikso

It was the summer of an avid birder's dream - an Olivaceous Cormorant was seen at Crabtree Nature Center in Cook County - but for us, it was a chance to observe and photograph nesting Pied-billed Grebes.

A low-lying area just east of Crabtree was flooded by beavers in 1992. We hoped to photograph Yellow-Headed Blackbirds that had been seen in this area. Not only were Yellow-Headed blackbirds nesting, but also part of this marsh nursery were Pied-billed Grebes, Black Terns, Wood Ducks, American Coots, and Common Moorhens. Growing cattails hid most of the nests. Only after searching carefully with binoculars, and watching birds closely were we able to locate several nests.

Most were not photographable; however, we had an unobstructed view of a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) on a nest which was fairly close to shore, with no cattails interfering. The nesting grebe was about 60 feet from the road, and well camouflaged. Her plumage and nest closely matched the color of the surrounding vegetation. In fact few birders hoping to get a sight of the Olivaceous Cormorant noticed her, although they scanned the area with binoculars.

We wondered: Was the nest active? Were there eggs? Would she



Pied-billed Grebe on nest at Crabtree Marsh near Crabtree Nature Center, Cook County, mid-July 1992. Photo by Annalce Fjellberg and Adam Fikso.

lay eggs if she hadn't already? Patiently we waited until the grebe left the nest and we could see its interior. There were no eggs yet. Perhaps soon.....

Pied-billed Grebe eggs hatch about 23 days after they are laid (Ehrlich, Dobin & Wheye 1988). In order to know when the grebe began laying her clutch, we observed the nest every other day and checked for eggs. On 25 June 1992, we spotted EGGS. Now we trekked out every day, because we weren't sure when they had first been laid. Assuming a nesting bird might be wary, we looked for natural screens so the grebe wouldn't be disturbed by our presence. Although she didn't seem disturbed when birders walked along the highway shoulder, stopping seemed to alert her, so we approached

and left the nesting area slowly, using bushes to screen us and being unobtrusive as possible.

The female would sometimes close her eyes or preen.

The male and female both incubated the eggs. Before leaving the nest, the grebe would first pick up floating vegetation from around the nest, and cover the eggs with it. Then the grebe left the nest after softly calling its mate.

The male tended to stay about 200 feet from the nest and he swam to it underwater. The eggs were turned occasionally, usually just before

the grebe left the nest. The incubating parents only exchanged places when no one was walking along the highway shoulder.

On 12 July our patience was rewarded. We spotted two chicks. The next day we saw three more! We spent the next two weeks observing the behavior of the adults and watching the young develop.

Both the male and the female brought food to the nestlings. Within a day or two after hatching the chicks peeped continuously when they saw the adult, who then climbed awkwardly into the nest with food. Within a few days, the adults no longer entered the nest and chicks scrambled to the edge of the nest to take it from them. In their eagerness, the nestlings often slid into the water and while one adult was finding food

fragmented woodlots may be impeded partially by the reluctance of these animals to navigate the surrounding farmland and clear cuts (Wegner and Merriam 1989).

Additionally, vegetative cover within the fragments was complex (Goodrich et al. unpubl. data), suggesting a greater variety of microhabitats to exploit. Increased resources could support large populations of animals over the season but at the same time may force individuals to exploit alternative resources such as nests (Nour et al 1993).

These results suggest a possible relationship between the small mammal community and songbird breeding success in small forests. All the mammals captured have been identified as potential nest predators (Wilcove 1985, Retisma et al. 1989, Yahner 1992, Nour et al. 1993 Seitz and Zegers 1993) and forests with low Ovenbird breeding success had high small mammal abundance.

Though white-footed mice were

most abundant on all our study areas, we cannot implicate them as a dominant predator of Ovenbird nests on these plots. There is substantial evidence that a number of other species that predate on bird nests, including skunks, opossums, raccoons, jays, crows, and snakes, have the potential to exert severe pressure on songbird breeding attempts in small forests (Ricklefs 1969, Wegner and Mirriam 1979, Angelstam 1986, Martin 1987, and Nour et al. 1993). As the abundances of these species were not investigated, their effects on Ovenbird nesting success on the plots is unknown.

Forest fragmentation can also affect other wildlife. Current timber management philosophy maintains that large acreages of young forests combined with large amounts of forest edge are beneficial to wildlife. This may be true for species such as white tailed deer, Ruffed Grouse, Northern Cardinal, and Brown Thrasher but is clearly not the case for species sensitive to forest frag-

mentation (e.g. Ovenbird and Wood Thrush). Future research should focus on and provide a workable understanding of the complex dynamics of these ecosystems as a whole and utilize this information to implement more inclusive land management practices that involve and provide for wildlife on a more comprehensive level.



Acknowledgments

Thanks go to Laurie Goodrich and Margret Brittingham for overseeing and producing the project and for invaluable assistance to Gina Morgan, Liz Otterson in the field, and to Keith Bildstein for helpful critical suggestions. Special thanks to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and the private landowners on which some of our plots existed.

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nearby, they paddled around the nest. However, when an adult appeared with food, they climbed back on the nest to be fed.

One morning, we discovered that the family had crossed the highway and were foraging among cattails on the north side of the road where more food and cover were available. By now the chicks were good swimmers and able to forage by themselves, although they didn't dive and only submerged their heads for brief periods. An adult continued to feed them with what appeared to be large chunks brought to the surface. The chicks seemed able to sense the adult's presence even when still underwater. They began peeping shrilly and as soon as the adult surfaced with food, they were there to grab it. Some of the chicks were larger than others and swam more quickly and grabbed more food. The adult compensated for this inequity by surfacing closer to the smaller ones who had been fed earlier.

Knowing how the chicks fed, it would seem an easy task to spot them, wait for the adult to surface, and photograph them. But feeding was completed before one could focus,

and trying to keep the darting (and very small) young in focus for the few moments they were away from screening cattails was difficult. Finally, we learned to focus on chicks

In their eagerness, the nestlings often slid into the water and while one adult was finding food nearby, they paddled around the nest.

when they began to peep. We would then scan the murky water for signs of the adult's arrival, and then focus again on the chicks. We were rewarded with a very few photographs that weren't fuzzy, and which had the entire adult and nestling(s) in them - about 4 out of 72 slides.

The chicks began losing their down, although they still had the black and yellow striped pattern on the backs of their heads and their beaks. They doubled their size at about two weeks of age and the adults

were feeding them less frequently. Our ability to photograph became more difficult as the young foraged farther away from the road and became nearly invisible behind cattails.

Our observations and photography lasted only a few short weeks. In our eagerness to observe and photograph the grebes, we became aware of temptations to ignore what we all know: do not disturb nesting birds which might cause them to abandon their nest. Watching these grebes nesting and raising young gave us a new appreciation for the amount of energy adults must expend in raising young, and the necessity of monitoring and often regulating our own behavior toward them.



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Adult Pied-billed Grebes carrying food for young on nest at Crabtree Marsh at Crabtree Nature Center, Cook County, mid-July 1992. Photo by Annalee Fjellberg and Adam Fikso.

AVIAN ARCHIVES

New Early Records of the Western Kingbird in Illinois

by C.T. (Ted) Black

The Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) occurred and nested in Illinois much earlier than current records (Bohlen 1989) indicate. Between 1935 and 1937 and somewhat later, when I was working with Professor Alvin R. Cahn of the University of Illinois on a proposed Birds of Illinois book, we recorded the following unpublished information:

First Illinois Record:

In a letter to Cahn, Harry C. Oberholser, Senior Ornithologist, U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., stated that on 29 August 1903, the Bureau received in the mail the head and wing of a bird from Chicago, Illinois, with a request for its identity. The bird was identified as an Arkansas (now Western) Kingbird. Oberholser was one of the most respected ornithologists of his day. This pre-dates by 21 years the 2 June 1924 current (Coale 1924) first Illinois record.

First Illinois Nest:

In a 31 August 1938 letter to me, Muriel Lampert of Belvidere, Illinois, reported that on 18 July 1929, she observed a pair of Arkansas (now Western) Kingbirds and their nest, and on 29 July the pair with four immature birds, near Belvidere in Boone County. This pre-dates by 36 years the 9 June 1965, current (Graber et al 1974) first Illinois nest.

Lampert stated: "Arkansas Kingbird--identified first a pair and nest 18 July, 1929; male and female with immature birds, 29 July, 1929. My recollection is there were four young... The nest was placed high in one of a long row of young elm trees near a young orchard--with open fields on three sides of the premises of the Boone County farm about 2 miles north of Belvidere on Route 76. The following year--1930--a pair of birds was observed at the same location on June 29 and 30. But I have no record of nesting. In 1932, at the same place a pair of birds was observed on May 15, 16, 31, and on June 5 and 7. I am quite sure that nesting was again reported to me--the young coming off successfully--but I made no personal observation and consequently have no dates. The next year, 1933, one bird was seen again at the same place and reported to me, but only once, in late May. And they have not since been seen there (nor anywhere else near here that I know of)."

Muriel Lampert was an active, experienced, and careful birder. She was a court reporter, and very methodical in recording her bird observations.

There have now been at least nine Western Kingbird nestings in Illinois (Bohlen 1989). Graber et al (1974) note that "June and July records of the Western Kingbird in or very near northeastern Illinois in 1924, 1935, and 1938...may have been indicative of nesting in those early years." The Lampert record would seem to confirm this, and it is reasonable that it be accepted.

Correction of an Illinois Great Gray Owl Record

by C.T. (Ted) Black

This corrects the date, collector's name, and location of collection of the Illinois Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) specimen cited by Smith and Parmalee (1955) and repeated by Bohlen (1978, 1989). Smith and Parmalee stated: "One bird was collected near Rockford by Dr. Lambert, Carthage College, about 1930 (Musselman)." "Dr. Lambert" is Earl L. Lambert, formerly a biology professor at Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois. "Musselman," the source of the report, is the early Illinois bird authority Thomas E. Musselman of Quincy, Illinois.

Between 1935 and 1937, when working with Professor Alvin R. Cahn of the University of Illinois on a proposed Birds of Illinois book, I received a communication from Lambert about this owl, stating that a Martin J. Reed collected it, and that he (Lambert) only saw it. Further, it was collected two miles southwest of Rock Grove, Illinois, (about 30 miles northwest of the Musselman location) "between the years of 1905 and 1911" (not "about 1930," the

Musselman date). The uncertainty of Lambert's date stemmed from his attempt to recall the date after a lapse of 25 to 30 years, when he wrote to me.

Lambert and Reed were farm youths at the time. Reed, a hunter and taxidermist, shot and mounted the owl. Lambert was much impressed by "this huge owl with its large rounded face studded with its comparatively small yellow eyes." He added that Reed "also had a mounted Barred Owl, and recalled "the difference in size...and in color of the eyes." The fate of the specimen is unknown.

Lambert went on to obtain a M.S. college degree, taught biology and mounted birds at Carthage College, and became aware of the significance of his youthful Great Gray Owl experience. He apparently informed Musselman (who lived at Quincy, only 35 miles distant) about the Great Gray Owl. As to the discrepancy between the Musselman and Lambert dates, one can only assume that Musselman, in repeating the record to Smith and Parmalee (1955), erred in his recollection of the date.

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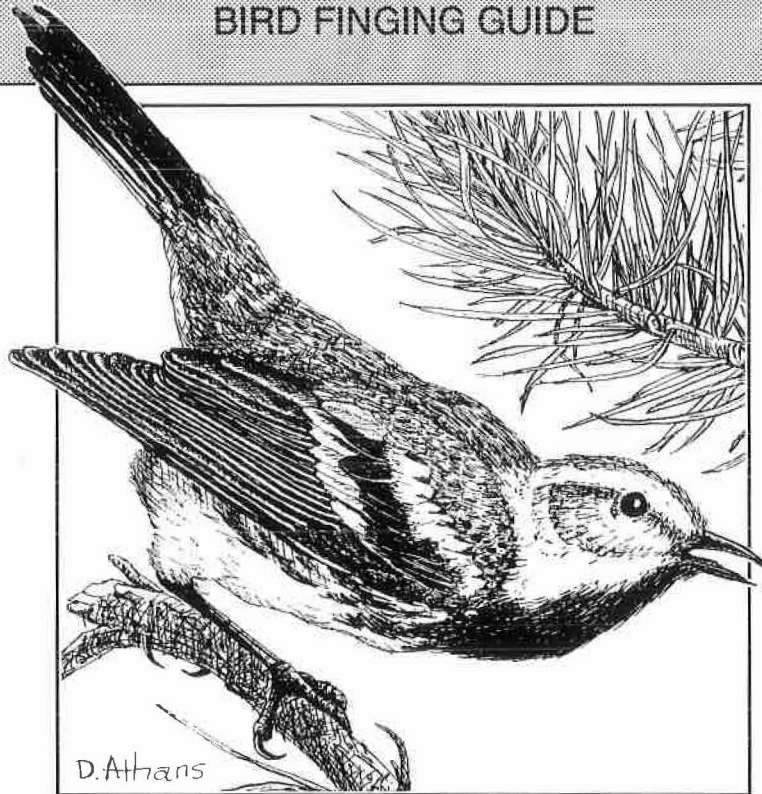
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BIRD FINGING GUIDE



Rare Summer Birds of the Lowden-Miller State Forest: Is this really Illinois?

by Scott K. Robinson, Ph.D

When I agreed to undertake a breeding bird census the summer of 1994 at the Lowden-Miller State Forest near Oregon, Ogle County, Illinois, I was mainly interested in its relatively large (2,225-acre) size. Because most smaller tracts in northern Illinois had low nesting success, I reasoned that Lowden-Miller had the best potential of any site in the region for escaping the devastating

effects of habitat fragmentation. About a half hour into my first census, however, I realized that it is the composition of this bird community that sets it apart, not just its potential for managing forest interior birds. In my first four point counts (each count lasts 6 minutes at points spaced 150 meters apart), I recorded a bizarre mix of northern (Chestnut-sided, Mourning, and Canada Warblers) and southern (Summer Tanager, Yellow-throated Warblers, and Kentucky Warblers) species, none of which I had expected.

The reasons for this odd mix of species quickly became apparent. Before it was sold to the state, the site was the Sinnissippi tree farm, in which extensive white and red pine plantations were interspersed with clearcuts, selectively logged oak/hickory ridges, and young floodplain forest along the Rock River. Some areas even contained Norway spruce plantations and shrubby fens. This mostly unnatural diversity of habitats has created what I consider to be Illinois' most unusual and surprising breeding bird community.

*Above:
Black-throated Green Warbler
drawing by David Athans.*

First Two Nests of Black-throated Green Warbler in Illinois

Researchers discovered two Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) nests while conducting breeding bird studies the summer of 1994 at Lowden-Miller State Forest in Ogle County, Illinois. Their work was part of research being done on the breeding status of neotropical migrants by Dr. Scott K. Robinson of the Illinois Natural History Survey.

The Black-throated Green Warbler has never before been recorded as a nesting species in the state (Bohlen 1989, *The Birds of Illinois*).

Brian Condon discovered 1 June 1994 a female black-throated green building a nest approximately 50 feet (15-20m) high in a white pine planta-

tion. On 3 June, the nest appeared to be complete. Between 6 and 17 June, the nest site was rather quiet. Condon heard only a few suspicious chips and a male singing once. He discovered a female 20 June on the pine. On 24 and 26 June no birds were observed. However, on 29 June a probable fledgling was seen several feet below the nest. On 1 July, 5 July, and 11 July no activity was observed at or near the nest site.

Robinson discovered a second Black-throated Green Warbler nest 10 June of 1994. The nest was situated in a white pine about 40 to 50 feet high. Robinson observed a female sitting in a bowl-shaped depres-

sion, presumably the nest, after she had been foraging briefly. The nest was too high to check and Robinson guesses the female was incubating at the time of his observation.

These nesting warblers were among a group which had established approximately 15 territories in the old stands of white pines that were part of an old Sinissippi tree farm plantation. Some of the singing males observed were probably unmated.

Nest logs and records are on file at the Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 E. Peabody Dr., Champaign, IL 61820.

In June and July of 1994, my field crew (Steve Bailey, Rhett Jack, Brian Aust, Dawn Montgomery, and Todd McQuiston) and I recorded more than 100 species breeding or defending territories. Included in this list were 20 species of warblers, more than breed in the entire 260,000-acre Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. As a place for summer birding, Lowden-Miller State Forest is unequaled.

Walking through the pine plantations reminded me of working in New England. By far the most abundant birds were the Ovenbird and the Chipping Sparrow; the latter foraged mostly in the treetops rather than on the ground. The substantial number (ca. 50 territories) of Yellow-throated Warblers coupled with the curious lack of Pine Warblers, however, sets the bird communities of these pines apart from more northern pine forests. Censuses of the extensive pine plantations revealed a host of Illinois rarities, including Black-throated Green Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Solitary Vireo, Brown Creeper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Pine Siskin. A Solitary Vireo that Randy

Nyboer and I tracked down mostly sang Red-eyed Vireo-like notes, but would occasionally give a clear, slurred solitary phrase to keep us chasing it. A male Golden-crowned Kinglet that defended a territory in

The Lowden-Miller State Forest contains a bird community atypical for Illinois. The pines and clearcuts appear to lure northern species south and southern species north.

the Norway spruce plantation sounded just like a chickadee except for occasional use of its characteristic 3-note song.

Surprisingly, the pine plantations also contained reasonable numbers of birds I usually consider to be hardwood species such as Veery, Wood

Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, and even Acadian Flycatcher. The two nests and estimated 15 territories of Black-throated Green Warblers in the tallest, oldest stands of white pines represented Illinois' first breeding records (see accompanying story). I suspect that Black-throated Greens and Solitary Vireos are more widespread in the state than we currently recognize and may even be colonizing some habitats.

Bird communities of the clearcuts are also unlike any mix of species I have encountered elsewhere. Recent (less than 3-year-old) clearcuts contained large numbers of Chestnut-sided and Blue-winged Warblers and smaller numbers of Canada, Mourning, and Golden-winged Warblers. We were unable to find the nests of any of these species, which may indicate a high proportion of unmated males. We did document pairs of Canada and Mourning Warblers and found old nests of Chestnut-sided Warblers. Older denser clearcuts were occupied by southern species such as White-eyed Vireo and Yellow-breasted Chat as well as more northern species such as Canada and

Black-and-white Warblers. Forest species such as Veeries and Kentucky Warblers also used older clearcuts. The edges of the clearcuts had occasional pairs of Black-billed Cuckoos, Summer Tanagers, and American Redstarts to enhance diversity even further. The mix of clearcuts, conifers, hardwoods, and northern and southern birds was such that I gave up trying to predict what I would hear every morning.

In contrast to the diverse and unusual bird communities of the clearcuts and conifers, the birds of the heavily logged hardwoods communities were relatively depauperate of birdlife. Although Veeries, Wood Thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-eyed Vireos, and Ovenbirds were reasonably common and widespread, many other species were rarer than expected. Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Cerulean, Worm-eating, Hooded, and Kentucky Warblers, and most woodpeckers were present, but only in small numbers.

The relative lack of oak/hickory forest birds was all the more obvious in comparison with the richer forest bird communities of the George B. Fell Nature Preserve (Castle Rock State Park) just across the Rock River. This less-disturbed forest contained significant populations of Least and Acadian Flycatchers, Cerulean and Hooded Warblers, American Redstarts, and Scarlet Tanagers. Blue-winged and Canada Warblers also nested in natural fen habitat in the preserve, and Black-and-white Warblers nested in a naturally disturbed area. Steve Bailey even found a singing male Winter Wren here in late June.

The Lowden-Miller State Forest contains a bird community atypical for Illinois. The pines and clearcuts appear to lure northern species south and southern species north. The summer birding here is great, but it remains to be seen whether any of these populations are viable. The results of our studies may prove that migrant songbirds are highly capable of colo-

nizing appropriate habitat when it becomes available, but it also may show that many birds are susceptible to ecological "traps" that look like suitable habitat but fail to provide the safe nest sites and mates necessary for successful breeding.

Getting there:

Finding Lowden-Miller State Forest and getting around inside is quite easy. Six parking lots and many miles of maintained trails are open to the public for hiking and cross-country skiing. Parking lot locations are shown on the accompanying map.

Lowden-Miller State Forest is located just south of Castle Rock



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State Park and the Rock River near Routes 2 and 64 near Oregon, Illinois.

For more information, contact
 Castle Rock State Park
 1365 West Castle Road
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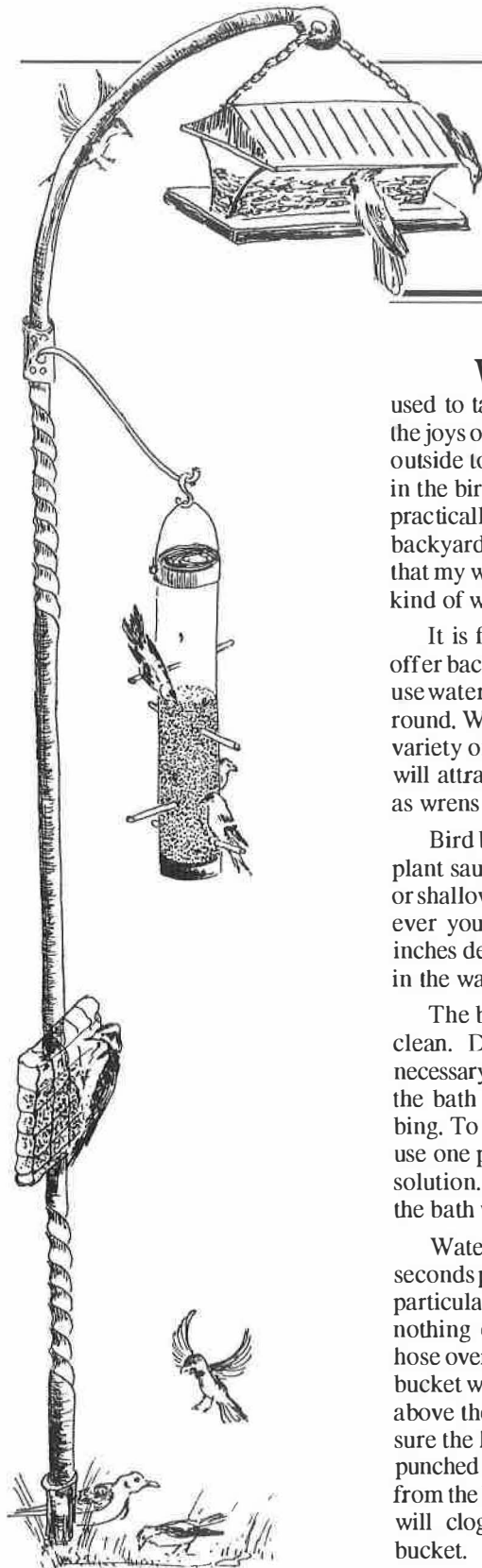
Telephone: (815)-732-7329.





Providing Water for Birds

by Dean Bolton



Drawing by Denis Kania

We humans have gotten so used to taking showers that we forget the joys of a bath, until, perhaps we look outside to see a House Finch splashing in the bird bath. One spring, a warbler practically dove into the bath in our backyard. It splashed around so much that my wife and I still can't agree what kind of warbler it was.

It is for these experiences that we offer backyard birds water. Birds will use water for drinking and bathing year-round. Water may even bring a greater variety of birds to your yard because it will attract non-seed eating birds such as wrens and robins.

Bird baths require nothing fancy. A plant saucer, garbage can lid, hub cap, or shallow pan will do. Make sure whatever you use is no more than 2 or 3 inches deep because birds like to stand in the water as they bathe.

The bath and water should be kept clean. During the summer, it may be necessary to add fresh water daily. Clean the bath regularly with a good scrubbing. To thoroughly disinfect the bath, use one part bleach to nine parts water solution. Be sure to completely rinse the bath with water before refilling.

Water dripping at a rate of 10 to 20 seconds per minute will make your bath particularly inviting to birds. You need nothing elaborate. A dripping garden hose over a tree branch or a water-filled bucket with a tiny hole placed 4 to 5 feet above the bath will attract birds. Make sure the hole in the bucket is small and punched on the side about one-half inch from the bottom. Even the tiniest debris will clog a hole in the bottom of a bucket.

Misters and drippers are also available. Most connect to your faucet; the attachment sits in the middle of the bath creating a mist or drip. Try turning your water on at the same time each day when you are home. The birds will learn when to expect the treat and you'll be there to watch them.

An unfrozen source of water can be welcome to birds during our cold Illinois winters. Plastic baths are the safest to use during cold weather because concrete and ceramic can crack when the water freezes. When the water in my plastic bath dish is frozen, I just turn it over and pop it out like an ice cube.

If you prefer a concrete or ceramic bath during the cold months, heating units are available. Several baths on the market today have built-in heating units. The heaters are regulated to keep the water just above freezing; many have thermostats that will shut off the heater if the bath runs out of water or the temperature rises above freezing.

A bath should be placed next to cover such as bushes and shrubs or even right on the ground since that is where birds are used to finding water. It also makes it easier for fledglings to reach.

The nearby cover also appeals to birds because they typically fly to the nearest tree or shrub to dry and preen their feathers. They will also have a quick escape route. But if you know cats are in the area, place the bath out in the open and on a pedestal so the birds will see the cats well in advance.

* Bolton, owner of
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A Cup of Prothonotary Warblers

by Karen A. Forcum

I never passed the well without stopping to pump myself a cold clear cup of water. Nothing quenched my thirst or cooled me off like a swig of well water from the tin cup that hung there next to the old homestead in rural Mode, Illinois where I grew up and raised my own family. After the arrival of running water, Dad left the pump, and we much preferred this drink to the one from inside. When Dad and Mom moved from the home place into a new all modern home nearby, he hung the tin cup on a peg just inside the machine shed door.

June of 1994, Dad called me to come down and see what bird was building a nest inside the old tin cup. I stepped inside the gloom of the shed and crouched down with Dad to wait. Suddenly, a bright yellow ball whizzed in and burst forth with a series of loud ringing zweet, zweet, zweet notes. Soon his mate flew in with her beak stuffed with what we presumed were leaves. She flew straight to the tin cup and popped in. We heard little scratching sounds. Moments later, the female flew out. The male then flew in, landed on the cup, peeked in, and then left behind her.

For several years we had a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) build in a bluebird house under the fuel tank, and successfully raise young. The summer of 1994, they had arrived in early May and a couple weeks later started building there and in another house hanging from the clothesline. We often saw them flitting about inside

Male Prothonotary Warbler peeking in tin cup with young inside. Mode, Illinois, Shelby County, 20 June 1994. Photo by Karen A. Forcum.

the machine shed hunting for insects.

We knew that they build dummy nests. The male will often start several nests, and the female will pick her choice of spots. The pair will then complete the nest. We thought the tin cup would surely be a dummy spot. This was not to be.

The Prothonotary Warbler is five-and-one-quarter to five-and-one-half inches long. The male sports a deep golden yellow head, neck, breast, and belly. Its back is more olive, with blue-gray wings and tail. The undertail coverts are white. The short white-patched tail, long bill, and prominent dark beady eyes, along with the brilliant yellow make this a striking looking bird.

This warbler was named from the Latin word, *Protonotarius*, meaning lemon color. A papal notary of the Roman Catholic Church who wore a yellow hood was named *Protonotarius*.

Prothonotary Warblers are found in the eastern United States as far north as Canada, and south to Florida and as far west as Nebraska and Kansas. The species winters from southern Mexico to northern South America. Most sources say you can find this warbler in damp habitats such as streams and swamps.

This warbler usually builds low, 5 to 10 feet above the ground, in hollow limbs, or even in nest boxes placed over or near the water. No source we found talks about nests in machine sheds or tin cups hanging 6 feet up on a nail.

Prothonotary Warblers usually build a loosely constructed bulky nest of leaves and mosses lined with grasses and feathers. Our nest contained this material, but it did not have much form by the time the birds fledged. The birds started incubating eggs on June 6. They usually lay six creamy white, purple-spotted eggs. We did not take down the cup to check the number.

The parents took turns incubating. When the male was away from the nest he sang persistently outside the shed from morning until night. He always gave a soft warble when he flew to the cup and peeked inside before trading places with the female. We sometimes saw him feeding her as she incubated eggs.

Hatching day came sometime around June 19 when we heard faint peeps from the cup. First male, then female peeked inside. The first few days they took turns staying with the hatchlings.

The parents fed at intervals of 10 to 20 minutes. We could see insect parts sticking out of their bills. They flew to the edge of the cup, warbled softly, peered in, then entered. They usually emerged carrying a fecal sac.

Four young fledged on June 30. We heard the parents call softly outside in the bushes.

The next day we knew all was not well. The male kept flying back into the shed and we heard a peeping bird calling from inside the shed wall. Dad finally deduced that one young Prothonotary Warbler had fallen inside the double tin wall. He waited another day hoping it would come out on its own. Finally, fearing it would perish, Dad took tinsnips and cut a hole. The parent scolded from the recesses of the shed. Dad waited and soon a yellowish ball of fluff hopped out and fluttered down. Dad carried the bird outside and set it on a wood pile. Dad then retreated and watched the parent feed the young. The baby bird soon flew off to join its siblings calling in the bushes.

We experienced much awe as we watched the warblers build, incubate, feed, and fledge. Truly, our cup runneth over with joy!

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Meadowlark

A New Double-crested Cormorant Nesting Colony in Cook County

Chicago, it is said, has two seasons - winter and road construction. This notion hit home on 19 May 1994, when extensive road work forced me to take an alternate route home through the suburb of Riverdale in Cook County. While passing the flooded abandoned gravel quarry at the intersection of 138th and Halsted Streets, I saw a huge assemblage of large, blackish birds in the water and trees along the edge of the quarry. After parking the car and viewing the quarry from a better vantage point, I counted 663 Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) with 55 active nests. This sighting constitutes the first documented nesting of this species at Riverdale and a new colony for Cook County and Illinois.

When I revisited the colony 28 May, the number of active nests had increased to 71. By 30 May, many of the

The Double-crested Cormorant provides an excellent example of the dramatic fluctuations that can occur in avian populations due to human activities.

nests, which were placed in trees along the shore, contained juvenile cormorants. Unfortunately, the colony appears to have been short-lived, as has been the case with other large wetland birds, for example Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets, which have established small colonies at the Riverdale quarry in recent years. For unknown reasons, by 5 June all nests were abandoned and no signs indicated that any young had successfully fledged.

The Double-crested Cormorant provides an excellent example of the dramatic fluctuations that can occur in avian populations due to human activities. Early in the century, double-crested were widespread in Illinois, with nesting colonies at several locations. By the 1950s, numbers began to decline (Bohlen 1978) due to eggshell thinning caused by indiscriminate use of organochlorine pesticides. By 1960, only one active colony remained, consisting of seven breeding pairs at Thomson, Carroll County, Illinois, and the

cormorant was added to the state's endangered species list (Bohlen 1989, *The Birds of Illinois*). Following the ban of DDT in 1972, numbers began to slowly increase. By 1993, at least five active nesting colonies were documented in the state (several with more than 100 nests) and cormorant numbers were again on the upswing (Kleen 1994).

Editor's Note: Double-crested Cormorant, which has been on the Illinois endangered species list since 1993, was delisted to threatened in 1994 by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

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Nesting Common Snipe near Goose Lake Prairie

After a hectic spring season, John McKee and I decided to make a leisurely birding trip to Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area in northeast Grundy County hoping to list our year's Henslow's Sparrow. On 21 May 1994, under a clear blue sky, we headed east. It was to be our lucky day. Six territorial Henslow's gave us very good looks. Sedge Wrens were everywhere. We drove on to our next destination, a birding area northeast of and adjacent to Goose Lake Prairie. Stopping at the corner of Lock and Collin Roads, we listed our year's Willow Flycatcher. Hearing a Bell's Vireo, also a year bird, and hoping to get a look at it, we stepped off the roadway into the ditch on the east side of Lock Road.

Much to our surprise, a Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) burst from under our feet and began a distraction display similar to that given by a Killdeer when it has a nest nearby. We stopped in our tracks, afraid of stepping on a concealed nest. Studying the grassy area around us, we spotted two downy young snipe just inches from our feet.



Common Snipe drawing by Leslie A. DeCoursey.

The young were camouflaged against the ground with grass surrounding them. As we watched, they remained perfectly motionless with their eyes closed. The adult bird remained very close, emitting what we took to be alarm calls.

John McKee remained at the site while I got my camera from the car and took a few slides of the chicks. A second adult, across the road, began to call, apparently responding to the agitated parent. Not wanting to alarm the adults further, we retreated.

Little is known about Common Snipe breeding cycles in Illinois and only limited records exist (Bohlen 1989, *Birds of Illinois*). Judging from the size of the chicks, we guessed they were just days old. Snipes are born precocial. When the chicks have dried after hatching, both parents lead them away from the nest. We saw only two chicks and wondered if a second adult was caring for their nestmates.

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Probable Breeding of the Western Kingbird in St. Clair County

Nearly every birder practices wire bird identification. Some even keep lists such as "Birds at 65 miles per hour" or "Birds of Interstate 70."

I was practicing wire bird identification on Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) 12 July 1994 driving slowly along the entrance road to the Casino Queen Gambling Boat in East St. Louis, Illinois. The sun was bright, it was 90 degrees in the shade, there was no breeze and Midwestern humidity was in full force.

Suddenly what I thought was an Eastern Kingbird from a quarter of a mile away became a lemon-breasted, light gray-backed bird. It had to be a Western Kingbird (*T. verticalus*). Slamming on the brakes, performing a U-turn, stopping the car and jumping out, I quickly looked, without binoculars, at the bird and again noted the lemon-yellow breast, dirty white throat, and light, grayish back.

I left to get my binoculars and returned to the site within

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.

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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 feather shafts 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).

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.

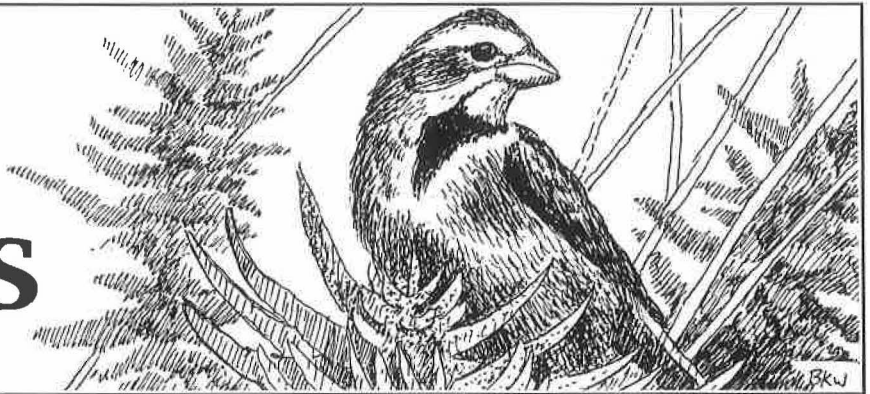
It should be noted that on 11 June 1990 about 20 miles downstream in extreme western Grundy County, I had previously located a Yellow-throated Warbler nest in a sycamore tree near the Illinois River. In north central Illinois, this warbler has also bred along the Sugar River in Winnebago County (Williams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

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Field Notes



Dickcissel drawing by Brian K. Willis.

The 1994 Breeding Season

by Vernon M. Kleen

The 1994 Breeding Season will be historically remembered as the year of new discoveries of significant breeding populations of several typically northern U.S. species at four northwestern Illinois sites. What else is out there just waiting to be discovered?

Weatherwise, June and July were fairly close to "normal" in contrast to the serious extreme rains of 1993. The official records indicate that June temperatures averaged about one degree above normal; July temperatures averaged one degree below normal; June precipitation averaged two-thirds of an inch above normal; and July precipitation averaged one inch below normal.

1994 marks the second year for the completion of all 81 of Illinois' Breeding Bird Survey routes; data from these routes have been used for nearly 30 years to detect the short-term and long-term population changes of Illinois' breeding species. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who faithfully conduct these surveys every year.

Brief highlights of the 1994 breeding season include the discovery of new Double-crested Cormorant colonies; Illinois' first and second nest records of Black-necked Stilt; nesting Western Kingbirds; first confirmed hybridization attempt between Violet-green Swallow and Tree Swallow; and the Scott Robinson-led team discoveries at Castle Rock State Park (Ogle Co), Lowden-Miller State

Forest (Ogle Co), White Pines State Park (Ogle Co.) and Sugar River Forest Preserve (Winnebago Co) in the north-west part of the state. Nests found include Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Least Flycatcher, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Pine Siskin, plus significant breeding populations of Acadian Flycatcher, Veery, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, American Redstart, and Ovenbird, and, possible nesting for Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler (one paired with a Blue-winged Warbler), Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, and several more typical southern Illinois species. In addition, there were sporadic numbers of opportunistic breeders such as Blue-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot.

As usual there were numerous June and July occurrences of non breeding birds throughout the state. Many of those records were obvious spring or fall migrants and were appropriately sent to the editors of those seasonal reports. Traditionally, the left-overs have been included in the body of the Breeding Season Report. This year, however, the left-overs have been given special attention and appear in the Non-Breeding Summer Occurrences supplement at the end of the report. This supplement specifically separates the June and July non-breeding records from the more pertinent breeding (or potential breeding) records of the Breeding Season Report.

As usual, this compilation is the result of the combined efforts of dozens of observers and reporters and would not have been possible without their continued and dedicated efforts. I am extremely grateful to all Illinois birders who regularly gather the breeding season information and make it available for publication, and, especially to those contributors listed below who submitted their

information directly or indirectly. The persons responsible for the records in the accompanying species accounts are acknowledged individually after their records; considerable effort has been made to be sure that all the following information is correct and that future researchers may substantiate all records by reviewing the original source documents and the permanent record file.

The observers and contributors for this report are acknowledged individually after their corresponding records and collectively as follows: Louise Augustine, Carl Becker, David Bohlen, Michael Baum, Renee Baade (RBa), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), Steve Byers (SBy), Elizabeth Chato, Karin Cassel, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Jeff Doolittle (JDl), Larry David, Myrna Deaton, Sheryl De Vore, Terry Esker, Todd Fink, Bill Glass (BGl), Ann Haverstock, Barrie Hunt, Dan Hoim (DHo), James Herkert (JHe), James Hampson, James Hart (JHt), Mary Hennen (MHe), Robert Hughes; Scott Hickman, Virginia

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As standard policy, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations. Observers should prepare the documentation(s) in the field as they are observing the bird(s). Although photographs are better than written documentations, observers should not rely totally on their photographs as the documentary evidence unless there is no doubt the photograph distinctly identifies the bird.

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

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|--|--|
| Carl.L = Carlyle Lake (Clinton Co) | M.Arb = Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co) |
| CBG = Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe, Cook Co) | MS = McGinnis Slough (Cook Co) |
| Chi = Chicago's lakefront parks excluding JP (Cook Co) | Palos = Palos F.P. inc. Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co) |
| ESTL = East St. Louis (St Clair Co) | Rend L = Rend Lake (Franklin Co) |
| GLPSP = Goose Lake Prairie S.P. (Grundy Co) | RLCA = Rice Lake Conservation Area (Fulton Co) |
| HL = Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co) | Sang.L = Sangchris Lake State Park (Sangamon Co) |
| HLCA = Horseshoe Lake C.A. (Alexander Co) | Spfld = Springfield (Sangamon Co) |
| IBSP = Illinois Beach S.P. (Lake Co) | SRSF = Sand Ridge S.F. (Mason Co) |
| JP = Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co) | SRSP = Starved Rock S.P. (La Salle Co) |
| LCal = Lake Calumet (Cook Co) | UCCA = Union Co C.A. (Union Co) |
| LChau = Lake Chautauqua N.W.R. (Mason Co) | Wauk = Waukegan (Lake Co) |
| LRen = Lake Renwick (Will Co) | |

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| ad. = adult | L = Lake | resp. = respectively |
| C.A. = Conservation Area | pr. = pair | S.F. = State Forest |
| subad. = subadult | N.C. = Nature Center | m.ob. = many observers |
| F.P. = Forest Preserve | * = documented record | S.P. = State Park |
| imm. = immature | N.P. = Nature Preserve | est. = estimate(d) |
| F.W.A. = Fish & Wildlife Area | ** = specimen record | MC = Maximum Count |
| yg. = young | N.W.R. = Nat'l Wildl Refuge | Co(s) = County(ies) |

A number in parentheses () indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date.



Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons at Theodore Marsh, Will County, 17 June 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Summer Season 1994 • BREEDING SPECIES

Pied-billed Grebe

Nests: Lake of Egypt (Pulaski Co) (2 eggs), 24 Apr. (TF fide RC). Broods: McHenry Dam (McHenry Co) (3 yg.), 23 July (SD, LKa); McDonald Woods F.P. (Lake Co) (2 ad., 3 yg.), 28 June (SH); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (2 yg.), 7 June (WM); LCal (5 = 1-5 yg.), 3-17 July (WM); Riverdale (Cook Co) (2 = 2-3 yg.), 5 June & 27 July, resp. (WM); Joliet (3 yg.), 5 June (JM); Frontenac Marsh (Du Page Co) (6 yg.), 30 June (JM); Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co), 26 June (JSu); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (several), June/July (KR, m.ob.); Spfld (3 yg.), 6 July (DB); Pulaski Co (2 grown yg.), 13 July (TF). Others: Palos (some nesting), June/July (JL); HL (Eagle Park) (120+-ad. & yg. of all ages), 12-20 July (KM); LRen (ad.), 1 June (JM); Joliet (ad.), 3 June (JM).

Double-crested Cormorant

Colonies: Carroll County (est. 30 nests in Illinois, 260 nests in Iowa), 26 May (VK); Baker's L (Cook Co) (47 nests), 16 June (SBy); Riverdale (Cook Co) (71 nests-**new colony**) (see seasonal highlights for more information), 28 May, but, colony apparently abandoned by 5 June (WM); LRen (est. 218 nests), 20 Apr. (JM); Utica (La Salle) (10 nests), 14 May (BG1); Carl L (est. 160 nests--2 separate locations), 25 May (VK); Riprap Landing F.W.A. (Calhoun Co) (25+ birds & 2 nests), 13 June (MPh); Rend L (2 nests w/ yg), as late as 2 Oct. (TF). MC: 516 (ad. & yg.), LRen, 30 June (JM); 175+, Bond County, 17 July (KM); 150, Matanza (Mason Co), 26 May (VK); 49, Monroe County, 10 June (KM); 40, Gulfport (Henderson Co), 26 May (VK); 21, St. Clair County, 10 June (KM); 20, Randolph County, 10 June (KM); 20 Alexander County, 25 May (VK).

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Others: Buffalo Grove F.P. (Lake Co) (11), 1-27 June (SD); Ferson Creek Fen (St. Charles, Kane Co), 2 June (DS); JP (11), 17 July (KC fide PC); LCal (+), June/July (JL); RLCA (7), 14 July (VK, VH); Spfld (female), 15 June (DB); Sang L (male), 22 June (DB); Decatur (9), 7 June (MD); Newton L (Jasper Co) (5), 7 July (TE, TF); HLCA (4), 28 June (JSc).

American Bittern

GLPSP, 7 & 11 July (JM).

Least Bittern

IBSP (ad.), 4 July (AS); Joliet (2 roadkills), 4 June (female) & 17 June (male) (JM); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co), 17 June (MD), and, (2 heard), 2 July (RC); Bath (Mason Co), 3 July (KR, LA); Spfld (ad. & imm.), 25 July (DB); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (heard), 26 June (RC); W. Frankfort (Franklin Co) (5), 31 July (LS).

Great Blue Heron

Total colonies: 51---Mississippi R: 16 (range: 20-750 nests); Illinois R: 6 (range: 321-923 nests); Ohio/Cache R: 2 (range: 600-1000 nests); Corps of Engineers Lakes: 6 (range: 3-700 nests); Northeastern Illinois: 4 (13-336 nests); other inland sites: 16 (range: 1-40 nests)]; est. total nests: 11600+ (m.ob. fide VK). MC: 1200+, RLCA, 8 July (KR).

Great Egret

Total colonies: 17---Mississippi R: 9 (range: 10-300 nests); Illinois R: 4 (range: 25-234 nests); Ohio/Cache R: 1 (50 nests); Northeastern Illinois: 3 (range: 25-290 nests)]; total nests: 1818+ (m.ob. fide VK). MC: 386 (ad. & yg.), LRen, 30 June (JM); 150, RLCA, 14 July (VK, VH); 63, Joliet, 17 June (JM). Others: Cedar L Marsh (Lake Co) (15), 11 July (DJ); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (2), 19 June-17 July (RC).

Snowy Egret

MC: 26, HL, 14 July (KM).

Little Blue Heron

MC: 60, Bond County, 20 July (KM). Others: IBSP (subad.), 11 June (AS); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (ad.), 7 June (WM et al.).

Cattle Egret

Colonies: Alorton and Audubon Avenue (both at ESTL) (est. 500 nests/colony (too fragile for censusing), June (fide VK); LRen (est. 6 nests), 2 June-26 July (JM). MC: 100+ (nesting suggested), Sand L (Havana, Mason Co), June/July (KR); 75+, Madison County, 7 July (KM); 50+, IIL, 21 July (KM). Others: Sang L, 14 June (DB); n.w. Will County (9 ad.), 25 July (JM).

Green Heron

Nests: JP (5 broods = 18 yg.), mid-June (1st 3) thru 14 Aug. (last brood--with down retained thru at least 22 Aug.--very late record) (PC); LRen (w/ eggs), 3 June (JM). Others: 42, Orient (Franklin Co), 30 July (LS); 24, Cedar L Marsh (Lake Co), 11 July (DJ); w. Will County (4 locations) (10 ad.), 3-17 June (JM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nests: LCal (colony a--Indian Ridge Marsh: 229 nests in cottonwood trees, 1 May), (colony b--Indian Ridge Marsh: unknown number of nests in the phragmites, early May), and (colony c--Big Marsh: 100+ nests, just initiated in early June) (WM), however, total LCal area est. of 700 nests (JL); LRen (est. 35+ nests), 20 Apr.-2 June (JM); Clear L (Mason Co) (23 nests), 3 June (RBj); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (73 nests), 6 June (RBj). Others: IBSP (possible nesting--up to 25 birds), mid-June thru July (AS). MC: 48 (ad. & yg.), LRen, 30 June (JM); 30, Evanston/Wilmette, 29 June (EW); 18, St. Clair County, 4 July (KM). Others: JP (max. of 14), June (PC).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Nests: Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (3 active), 7 June, but, later abandoned (WM). Others: N. Chicago (Lake Co) (2--ad. & imm.), 13 July (DJ); JP (ad.), 17-23 June (PC et al.); LCal (ad.), 9 June and (2 ad.), 3 July (WM); LRen (ad.), 2 June (JM); Newton L (Jasper Co) (imm.), 7 July (TE, TF); St. Clair County, 9 June (KM); Mermet L.C.A. (Massac Co) (ad.), 5 June (CMc, JMc).

Mute Swan

Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 4 & 7 June and (2), 19 June (WM);

Chi (Egger's Woods) (6--4 yg.), 20 May (EW, WS); LCal (2), 17 July (WM).

Canada Goose

Broods: JP (13 = 80 yg.), 30 Apr. thru June (PC); LCal (12 = 65 yg.), 7 May-9 June (WM); w. Will County (26 = 174 yg.), 2 June-7 July (JM); Dragon L.F.P. (DuPage Co) (6 yg.), 20 May (JSu); e. Grundy County (10 = 45 yg.), 25 May (JM); Monroe County (4 yg.), 17 Apr. (KM); Mermet L.C.A. (6 yg.), 30 Apr. (KM); HL (6 yg.), 13 May (KM). MC: 153 (ad. & yg.), LCal, 26 June (WM); 137 (75 ad., 62 yg.), LRen, 1 June (JM).

Wood Duck

Broods: McHenry Dam (McHenry Co) (7 yg.), 23 July (SD, LKa); Dan Wright Woods F.P. (Lake Co) (1 ad., 3 yg.), 7 June (SH); Evanston (10 yg.--about 1 mi. from nearest water), 31 May (EW); JP (6 = 6-10 yg. totalling 47 yg.), 5 June-5 July (PC); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (10 yg.), 19 June (WM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (12), 4 July (RC); Monroe County (10 yg.), 19 May (KM); Germantown (Clinton Co) (25 yg.), 21 May (KM).

Mallard

Nests: Heidecke L (Grundy Co) (7 eggs), 7 July (JM). Broods: JP (averaged 7.8 yg. per female), 1 May-3 Aug. (the latter date a recently hatched bird) (PC); LCal (2-9 yg.), 7 May-2 July (WM); w. Will County (9 = 64 yg.), 1-30 June (JM); Dragon L.F.P. (DuPage Co) (6 = 40 yg.), 29 May-30 July (JSu). MC: 223 (ad. & yg.), LCal, 9 June (WM).

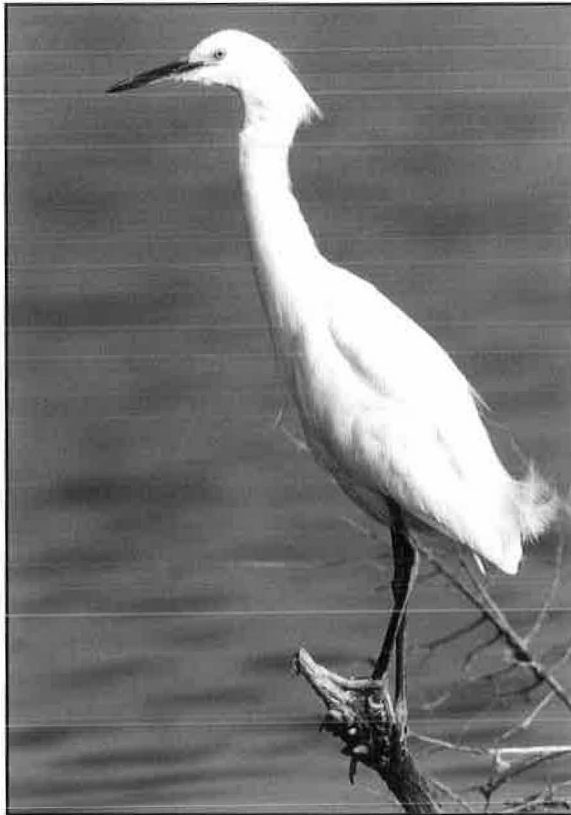
Blue-winged Teal

Broods: Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (10 yg.), 26 June (WM); LCal (6 yg.), 18 July (EW); Dragon L.F.P. (DuPage Co) (2 = 8 & 6 yg.), 16 June & 23 July, resp. (JSu). Others: JP (wandering males), June/July (PC);

GLPSP (2), 7 & 28 July (JM); LCal (11), 31 July (JL); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (12+ = 6 prs.+), 2 July (RC); Spfld (pr), 24 & 28 June (DB); Jefferson County (male), 9 July (TF); HLCA (pr.), 24 May (KM fide RC).

Hooded Merganser

Young: Green River C.A. (6 yg.), 30 May (CMc, JMc); JP (3 yg.), 24 June (PC); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co) (imm.), 14 July (VK, VH); RLCA (5, full-grown), 20-22 July (KR); Spfld (6 yg.), 29 May (DB). Others: CNC (3 pr.), June (fide AA); Riverdale (Cook Co) (female), 5 June (WM); e. Grundy County (2--female plumage), 7 July (JM); Arcola (Douglas Co) (eclipse male and female), 23 June (RC); Homer L



Snowy Egret, Horseshoe Lake, Madison County, 29 July 1994. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.



Pair of Turkey Vultures at barn, Grundy County, 28 July 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich

(Champaign Co) (female), 23 June-3 July+ (RC); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (female), 26 June; Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (2 female or imm.), 16 July (RC); 12 June (female) & 23-25 June (male), Wilmette (EW).

Ruddy Duck

Riverdale (3 = pr. + male), 5 June (WM); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (8 = 2 males, 1 female, 5 yg.), 24 July (RC); Spfld (2 males), 2 June, and (1 male) thru 18 June (DB); HL (Eagle Park), (3 broods w/ 16 yg.), 12-20 July (KM).

Turkey Vulture

Palos, Saganashkee Slough (16), 26 July (CT); Skokie Lagoons F.P., 10 July (JSa); pr. (E. Grundy Co), 28 July (JM).

Osprey

SRSP, 17 July (JHa).

Mississippi Kite

Thebes (Alexander Co) (16), 10 June (KM); Riprap Landing F.W.A. (Calhoun Co), 3 June and (2), 1 July (MPh); nw. of Fults (Monroe Co), 22 July (DB); N. Quincy (Adams Co), 22 July (MPh).

Bald Eagle

Nests: UCCA (imm. still at nest), 28 July (TF); HLCA (2 nests) (TF). Others: IBSP, 25 June (AS fide EW); JP (imm.), 8 July (*PC); RLCA (subad.), 12 June (KR); LChau (ad.), 30 June (KR); Allenville (Moultrie Co) (4th year), 17 & 31 July (MD); Carroll Island (Calhoun Co), 1 July (MPh);

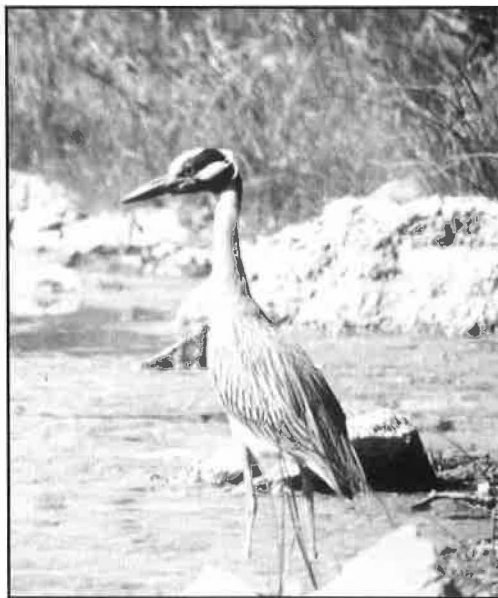
Cache R (Pulaski Co) (nest constructed but not used), 2 Apr. (TF).

Northern Harrier

Nests: Iroquois County C.A. (5 eggs), 25 June (RC). Others: Manito (Mason Co) (male), 24 June (KR); Kinmundy (Marion Co) (one of two nests fledged yg.), 4 Aug. (TE et al.); Bogota (Jasper Co) (7 of 8 nests hatched yg.; at least 23 yg. fledged), 12 July (TE et al.); Farmersville (Montgomery Co), 9 June (MPh).

Cooper's Hawk

Nesting: Ryders Woods (McHenry Co), 25 Apr. (nest-building), 7 July (2 yg. fledged) (RBa); JP (Wooded Island) (w/ 3 yg. fledged--causing "...dramatic repercussions on the nesting populations of appropriately-sized prey..." in this choice birding area) (see seasonal highlights for more information), 30 Mar.-12 July (*PC); Farmdale Recreation Area (Tazewell Co) (nest), 7 May & 6 June (DHo); Reavis Prairie (Mason Co) (pr. at nest), 12 May (KR); Sang L (nest, failed), 25 Apr.-3 May (DB), but (1), 21 July (DB). Others: Lowden-Miller S.F. (3+ prs), May/June (fide SR); Castle Rock S.P. (2 prs), May/June (fide SR); White Pines S.F., May/June (fide SR); Sugar River F.P. (3 prs), May/June



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Jackson Park, Chicago, Cook County, 20 June 1994. Photo by Thomas Jackman.

(SR); Nachusa Grasslands, 4 & 11 June (AH); 8 sites in w. Cook Co, mid-June (fide AA); M.Arb (territory), thru June (EW); Spfld (ad.), 27 June (VK); Bogota (Jasper Co) (ad.), 5 July (TE et al.).

Red-shouldered Hawk

Nest: Joliet, 9 May (JM). Others: Glenview (ad. & imm.) (fide AA). Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (imm.), 31 July (RC); s. Clinton County (2), 21 May (KM); Franklin County (2), 10 July (KM).

Broad-winged Hawk

Castle Rock S.P. (pr.), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (pr.), May/June (SR); Dan Wright Woods F.P. (Lake Co), 11 June (SH); Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co), 11 June (BH); 6 sites in w. Cook Co, mid-June (fide AA).

Swainson's Hawk

Young: Kane County (2 ad., 2 yg.), 7 May-11 July (*MMe, m.ob.). Others: s. McHenry County, 14 June (TF), and (pr. carrying food), 4 July (CMc, JMc)

Red-tailed Hawk

Nests: Dragon L. F.P. (Du Page Co) (4), May/June (JSu).

American Kestrel

Young: Braidwood (fledged), 28 July (JM); Sangamon/Logan County (25+ fledged from 8 boxes), 23 May-6 July (JHt).

Peregrine Falcon

Nests: Chi (Wacker St.) (3 yg. fledged), June (MHe); Chi (Hyde Park) (1 yg. fledged), 25 June (MHe); Chi (Irving Park) (2 yg. fledged), June (MHe); **Spfld** (banded pr., w/ 2 eggs before nest/eggs destroyed), 14 Apr. (VK--photo). Others: LCal (2--including at least one ad.), 9 July (WM).

Ring-necked Pheasant

Broods: 1 (10 yg.), Buffalo Grove F.P. (Lake Co), 11 June (SD). MC: 75, Fairland B.B.S. route (Champaign/Piatt Cos), 5 June (RC). Others: Statewide index increased 14% from the 1993 survey, but the mean August brood size decreased from 4.5 chicks per brood last year to 3.8 this year (LD).

Greater Prairie-Chicken

96 Kansas prairie-chickens (50 females and 46 males) were released at the Jasper County sites this year; even with this enhancement only 22 males (which included 8 "Illinois" birds) remained on these booming



Adult Sandhill Crane present for several weeks, possibly injured, Frankfort, Illinois, Will County, 26 June 1994.

Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

grounds this year; and, another 18 males utilized the Marion County booming grounds.

Wild Turkey

Nests: Williamson County (15 eggs), 22 Apr. (TF). Others: SRSF (ad. w/ 2 yg.), 25 July (KR); Athens (Menard Co) (7--including yg.), 2 Aug. (VK); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co), 19 June (RC); Homer L (Champaign Co), 23 June (RC).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 71, Flora B.B.S. route (Clay Co), 4 June (RC); 47, Spfld, 12 June (DB); 46, Mt. Vernon B.B.S. route (Jefferson Co), 1 June (TF). The 1994 June index increased by 2% compared with the 1993 index.

King Rail

Broods: LCal (Big Marsh) (1 nearly full-grown yg.), 7 Aug. (WMetal.); GLPSP (pr. w/ 6 yg.), 7 July (JM) and (w/ 4 yg.) 11 July (JM); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (pr. w/ 3 yg.), 17 June, and (pr. w/ 4 yg.), 25 June (MD), also

(ad. & yg.), 2 July (RC); Bogota (Jasper Co) (6 ad's. and brood of 5 yg.), July (TE). Others: Bath (Mason Co) (ad.), 17 June (KR); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (ad.), 12 June (KR, LA); Roxanna (Madison Co), 22 July (DB).

Virginia Rail

Volo Bog (Lake Co) (4), 14 June (TF); Cedar L. Marsh (Lake Co), 1 July (DJ); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (heard "grunt"), 7 June (WM); LCal (ad.), 18 July (EW); Joliet, 12 June (JM).

Sora

Joliet, 17 June (JM); Arcola (Douglas Co), 23 June (RC); 8 (4 pr.), CNC, mid-June (fide AA).



Adult King Rail with three young, Goose Lake Prairie State, Park, Grundy County, 7 July 1994.
Photo by Joe B. Milosevich

Common Moorhen

Nests: Joliet (1 egg), 12 June (JM). Broods: Wadsworth (pr.), mid-May thru July including 2-3 yg in July (AS); LCal (14 = 1-8 yg.) (total birds = 76--ad. & yg.), 17 July (WM); Joliet (2 = 3 & 4 yg.), 17 June (JM); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (30+ = 8+ ad., 2 broods, and many imm.), 24 July (RC); Beardstown (Cass Co) (6 yg.), 6 July (KR); HL (4 = 1-10 yg.), 4-20 July (KM); Sauget (St. Clair Co) (2 = 2-4 yg.), 4 July (KM). MC: 30+ (see above); 11 (ad. & yg.), Joliet, 17 June (JM). Others: Volo Bog (Lake Co), 14 June (TF); Cedar L Marsh (Lake Co), 21 June (DJ); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (ad.), 7 June (WM); Arcola (Douglas Co) (6 ad.), 23 June-3 July+ (RC); Mason County (ads. at several locations), June/July (KR); Mermet L.C.A. (Massac Co) (pr.), 5 June (CMc, JMc).

American Coot

Broods: LCal (2 = 5 yg. each), 17 July (WM); Riverdale (Cook Co) (4 yg.), 14 July (WM); Frontenac Marsh (Du Page Co) (6 yg.), 30 June (JM); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (10+ = ads., brood, & several imm.), 24 July (RC); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (ad. w/2+ yg.), 19 June (RC); HL Eagle Park (4 = 1-14 yg.), 12-20 July (KM); Sauget (St. Clair Co) (2 = 2 yg. each), 4 July (KM). Others: Dragon L F.P. (DuPage Co), 9 June (JSu).

Sandhill Crane

Young: Denny Road Marsh (se. Kane Co) (2 ad. w/1 yg.), 11 July (DS--photo). Others: Sugar River F.P. (pr.), May/June (SR); Pistakee Bog N.P. (Lake Co) (3), 3 June (MMi); Frankfort (Will Co) (ad.--injured wing--?), 26 June (JM).

Killdeer

MC: 61, e. Grundy Co, 11 July (JM); 37 (ad. & yg.), LCal, 9 June & 3 July (WM); 33, Madison County, 12 June (KM).

BLACK-NECKED STILT

Nests: Grand Tower (4 eggs), 4 June (CMc, JMc)--1st confirmed Illinois nest (photos--TF); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (pr., including copulation), 15 May-1 June (RS, KR, m.ob.); LChau (2 prs.) 17 June (KR), (single pr. 23-27 June and nest with 2 eggs) 27 June - 1 July (KR, LA), nest destroyed by high water by 3 July (KR)--2nd confirmed Illinois nest (see separate story for more information). MC: 6, Gorham (Jackson Co), 4 June (CMc, JMc); 5, LChau, 30 June-2 July (KR, RC). From 1-4 birds seen in various w. Mason County locations throughout July (KR).

Spotted Sandpiper

Nesting: Buffalo Grove F.P. (Lake Co) (2-4 nesting prs.), 1-27

June (SD); Wauk (4 eggs), 31 May and (4 yg.), 18 June (DJ); Decatur (6 prs.), June/July (MD). MC: 21, Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 11 July (JM). Others: LCal (9 ad.--one giving distraction display), 9 June (WM), and (imm.), 3 July (JL); Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (3), 4 June (JSu).

Upland Sandpiper

Nachusa Grasslands (2 prs.); June/July (AH); IBSP (2 displaying), 19 & 25 June (AS); GLPSP, 11 July (JM); s.e. Livingston County (male), 22 June (VK); Bellflower (McLean Co), 10



Ring-billed Gull nest with five eggs, Heidecke Lake, Grundy County, 25 May 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

June (RC); Colusa (Hancock Co) (male), 15 June (VK); Decatur (2), July (MD); Coles County airport (7--may have included yg.), 5 July, and, (3, including a 1/2-grown yg.), 5 Aug. (BH); Bogota (Jasper Co) (at least 6 prs. and 3 broods observed), thru 15 June (TE et al.); Kinmundy (Marion Co) (3 prs.), 19 May (TE et al.).

Common Snipe

Brood: GLPSP (2 ad. w/ 2 yg.), 20 May (CMc, JMc--photo of yg.) (see seasonal highlights for more information). Others: IBSP (s. unit), 25 July and

(n. unit), 26 July (AS); Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (pr.), still present 27 June (SD).

American Woodcock

Young: SRSF (4), 17 May (KR); RLCA (3), 17 May (KR). Others: Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (pr.), still present 14 June (SD); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co) (2), 17 June (KR).

Ring-billed Gull

Colonies: LCal (est., 7500 nests), 7 May, with 1st hatched yg. noted, 9 June, and 1st fledglings noted, 26 June (WM); Heidecke L (Grundy Co) (1 nest = 5 eggs), 25 May (JM); Dresden Cooling L (Will Co) (est. 100+ nests), 25 May (JM). Others: Evanston (1820), 8 June (EW); JP (522 ad.), 24 June (PC); RLCA (60), 14 July (VK, VH). **Albino:** Wauk, 24 June (JN--photo).

Herring Gull

Colonies: LCal (at least 2 nests), 7 May (WM). Others: Evanston (200), 8 June (EW)--1st imm. noted on 2 July; JP (40 ad.), 8 June (PC); Joliet (pr. carrying nesting material), 7 & 27 May (JM).

Common Tern

Johns Mansville (Lake Co); 1st nest = 11 June; 14 birds, several on nests, 19 June; 22 (ad.), 25 June; hatchlings noted, 16 July; 5 nests w/ 2 yg. per nest, 23 July; ads. tending yg. thru 31 July (AS).



Red-headed Woodpeckers copulating in Evanston, Cook County, May 1994. Photo by Ken Oberlander.

Least Tern

Alexander County (16), 10 June (KM); Gorham (Jackson Co) (6), 11 June (TF).

Black Tern

Cedar L Marsh (Lake Co) (2 prs.), 14 June-11 July (DJ); LRen (2), 30 June (JM).

Mourning Dove

The 1994 August index declined 7.5% (non-significant) compared to 1993 using only those 56 statewide routes surveyed in both years; however the 1994 index was 5% above the mean of the previous five years and Illinois' ten-year trend was up significantly (4.1%) (LD).

Black-billed Cuckoo

CastleRock S.P. (2-3 males), June/July (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (5-10 males), June/July (SR); Sugar River F.P. (2 males), June/July (SR); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (2 territories), 17 June (EW); Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (6), 16 June (JSu); Jefferson County, 17 July (TF).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

MC: 14, Monroe County, 11 June (KM); 9, Spfld, 15 June (DB); 9, Pope County, 2 June (TF). Others: Castle Rock S.P. (few), June/July (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (few), June/July (SR); Sugar River F.P. (10+ males), June/July (SR).

Barn Owl

Kinmundy (Marion Co) (5 yg. fledged), 24 May (TE); Pulaski County (nesting), 11 June (TF).

Barred Owl

Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (2), 2 July (EW).

Short-eared Owl

Nests: Bogota (Jasper Co) (2 = 2 & 3 yg. fledged), 27 May (TE).

Common Nighthawk

SRSF (13 males), 24-25 June (RBj).

Chuck-will's-widow

Iroquois County C.A. (male), 25 June (RC); SRSF (2 males), 24-25 June (RBj) and 2 July (RC).

Whip-poor-will

SFSF (134 males), 24-25 June (RBj).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

W. Frankfort (Franklin Co) (20+), 30 July (LS).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

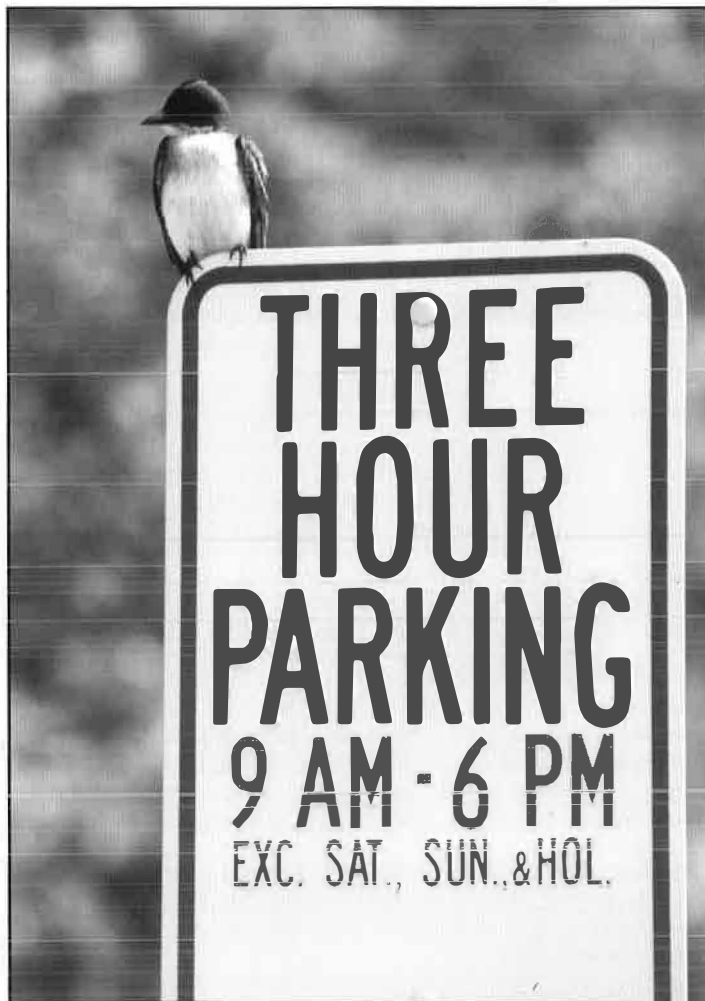
Lowden-Miller S.F. (family in pines), May/June (SR) - 1st Illinois reported nesting since 1986.

Pileated Woodpecker

MC: 5, Spfld, 18 June (DB).

Eastern Wood-Pewee

MC: 18, M. Arb, 28 May (EW); 12 Monroe Co, 11 June (KM); 9 Madison Co, 12 June (KM); 9, Joliet, 17 June (JM).



Eastern Kingbird posing as meter maid? Evanston, Cook County, 20 June 1994. Photo by Eric Walters.

Acadian Flycatcher

Nests: Joliet (no eggs), 17 June (JM). Others: Castle Rock S.P. (10-20 prs), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (10-20 prs), May/June (SR); Sugar River F.P. (5-10 prs), May/June (SR); Dan Wright Woods F.P. (Lake Co) (3), 31 May-11 June (SH).

Alder Flycatcher

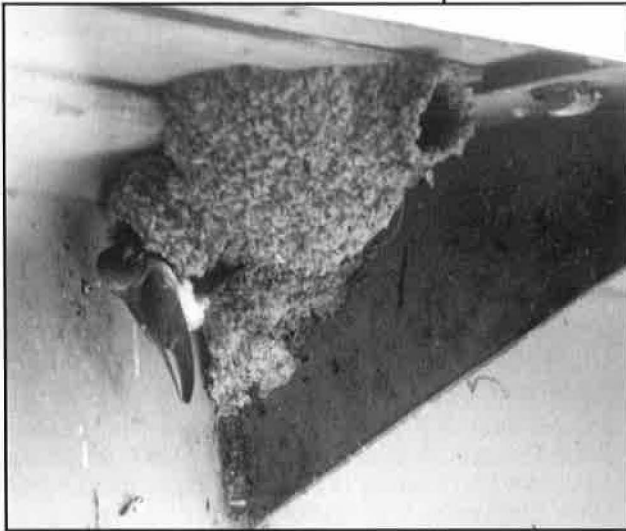
Pistakee Bog N.P. (Lake Co) (male), thru early July (MMi); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co), (3 males), 17 June (only one on 2 July) (EW).

Willow Flycatcher

Nachusa Grasslands (5 males), 22 May-22 July (AH); Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (8 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); Buffalo Grove F.P.



Top: Pair of Cliff Swallows at nest, Will County, 2 June 1994. Ten nests were located beneath a bridge. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



Left: Cliff Swallow at nest in Jackson Park, Chicago, Cook County, 20 June 1994. Photo by Thomas Jackman

(Lake Co) (5 prs.), June (SD); JP (male), thru 23 June (PC); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (16--including 11 males), 7 June (WM); LCal (13--including 6 males), 9 June (WM); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (3 males), 17 June (EW); Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (13), 4 June (JSu); Iroquois County C.A. (6 males), 25 June (RC); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (6 males), 4 July (RC); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (3 males), June (KR); RLCA (male), May/June (KR); Topeka (Mason Co) (male), 4 July (KR).

Least Flycatcher

Castle Rock S.P. (6-8 prs--3 nests, newly discovered population), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (8-10 prs, 2 nests) May/June (SR); Nachusa Grasslands (male), 24 May-30 June (AH); Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (pr.), 10 June-22 July (SD); Ferson Creek Fen (St. Charles, Kane Co) (male), 2 & 27 June (DS).

WESTERN KINGBIRD

ESTL (7 = 3 ad., 4 yg.), 12-29 July (KM, TF, m.ob.). First reported Illinois nesting since 1986 (see seasonal highlights for more information).

Horned Lark

MC: 163, Monticello B.B.S. route (PiattMcLeancos), 10 June (RC); only two sites noted in Cook Co (innw. portion), during June (fide AA).

Bank Swallow

Colonies: Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (10 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); JP (14 nests, 3.6 yg./nest), 3 July (PC); RLCA (Duck Island) (not counted, but 1500 birds observed), 14 July (VK, VH); Dallas City (Henderson Co) (500 nestholes in sandpiles), 15 June (VK). Others: LCal (100+), 2 July (WM); HL (65+), 4 July (KM).

Cliff Swallow

Colonies: Skokie Lagoons F.P. (3 nests), 30 May (EW); JP (5 prs.--nesting attempted), May-July (PC); 5 total sites in Cook Co (fide AA); n.w. Will County (10 nests), 2 June and (7 nests), 30 June (JM); RLCA (60--nesting under bridge), 14 July (VK, VH); Dallas City (Henderson Co) (100 nests on ledges of gravel quarry), 15 June (VK); Decatur (21 nests), June (MD); Spfld (Lindsay Bridge) (30 nests), June (DB). Others: LCal (ad.), 9 June (WM); Evanston (pr.) 11 June (EW); Buffalo Rock S.P. (La Salle Co) (many, probably nesting), 17 June (DS); e. Grundy County (ad. feeding 3 fledged yg.), 11 July (JM); Jefferson County (60), 10 July (KM); Chester (Randolph Co) (50+), 10 June (KM); Bond Co (50+), 23 July (KM)..

Purple Martin

Nests: 46, CBG, in June (fide AA). M.C.: 105, Cari L., 23 July (KM).

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW

Shirland (Winnebago Co) (female paired with male Tree Swallow); nest in birdbox, 5 June (LJo.m.ob.--photo) (see separate article for more information). This is Illinois' first, possibly second confirmed record.

Fish Crow

Stump L. (Jersey Co) (2+), 23 June (MPh).

Brown Creeper

Lowden-Miller S.F. (significant breeding population), May/June (SR); **RLCA** (2 ad. & 2 yg.), 29 May (KR, MB).

Bewick's Wren

Spfld (pr.), 15 June, and (1), 20 June & 6 July (DB).

Winter Wren

Castle Rock S.P. (male), May/June (SR).

Sedge Wren

MC: **100+** (81 males, + females feeding yg.), Iroquois County C.A., 25 June (RC); 24, GLPSP, 28 July (JM). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (male), 10 June, then (7 males), 22 July (AH); Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (2 males), 29 July (SD, LKa); Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (3 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (3 males), 7 June (WM); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (9 males), 17 June, and (numerous yg.), in July (EW); Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (6), 4 June (JSu); RLCA (5 males), mid-July+ (KR); n.w. of Spfld (4 males), 20 June (DB); W. Frankfort (Franklin Co) (male), 31 July (LS).

Marsh Wren

MC: 28 (males) LCal, 9 June (WM); 10 (males), Joliet, 3 June (JM); 8 (males), RLCA, 29 July (KR, LA); 6 (males), GLPSP, 11 July (JM); 6 Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co), 1-27 June (SD). Others: Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (male), 29 July (SD, LKa); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (5 males), 24 July (RC et al.); Bath (Mason Co) (male), 17 June-15 July (KR).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Lowden-Miller S.F. (territorial male), May/June (SR).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

21 territories in Cook Co, early June (with 3 confirmed nestings) (fide AA); Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (3 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); Pope County (11), 2 June (TF).

Veery

Castle Rock S.P. (**50-150, 10 nests**, newly discovered population), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (**20-50 males**), May/June (SR); Spring L N.P. (Cook Co) (11-7 males), early June (fide AA); Sugar River F.P. (6 males), May/June (SR); Nachusa Grasslands (3 males), 29 May-25 June (AH); Pistakee Bog N.P. (Lake Co) (male), thur early July (MMi); Joliet (2), 17 June (JM); Iroquois County C.A. (male), 25 June (RC).

Wood Thrush

Lowden-Miller S.F. (good numbers), June (fide SR); MC: 12, M.Arb, 28 May (EW); 10, Joliet, 17 June (JM); 8, Dan Wright Woods F.P. (Lake Co), 31 May (SH); 8 (males), Iroquois

County C.A., 25 June (RC); 6, Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co), 17 June (EW).

Gray Catbird

M.Arb (15 males), 28 May (EW); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (13 males), 17 June (EW).

Northern Mockingbird

MC: 23, Flora B.B.S. route (Clay Co), 4 June (RC); 8 (7 ad, 1 imm.), Braidwood, 9 July (JM). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (pr. w/ yg.), 12 July (AH); c. Grundy Co, 11 July (JM); JP, 20 June (TJ fide PC); Mason County (average numbers), June/July (KR).

Cedar Waxwing

Nest: Evanston, 24 June, later abandoned (EW). Others: Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (3 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); Buffalo Grove F.P. (Lake Co) (2 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); 6 (territories), Evanston/Wilmette, late June (EW); JP (2 fledglings), 26 July (KC fide PC); Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (building), 9 June (JSu); HL (15), 27 May (KM).

Loggerhead Shrike

MC: 9, Flora B.B.S. route (Clay Co), 4 June (RC). Others: Waterman (De Kalb Co) (ad. & imm.), 4 July (DS); Will County (3), 15 June (TF); Alexis (Mercer Co) (pr.), 28 June (VK); s. Bureau County (pr.), 22 & 28 June (VK); Modena (Stark Co) (pr.), 22 June (VK); s. Tazewell County (pr.), May/June (KR); Spfld (2 ad., 1 imm.), 30 June (DB); Pittsfield (Pikc Co) (2), 20 May (MPh); Bourbon (Douglas Co) (pr.), 4 June (RC); Arthur (Moultrie Co) (3 ad.), 4 June (RC); Bogota (Jasper Co) (19 prs.), July (TE et al.); Kinmundy (Marion Co) (10 prs.), July (TE et al.).

White-eyed Vireo

Lowden-Miller S.F. (5-10 males), May/June (SR); Pistakee Bog N.P. (Lake Co) (male), thru mid-July (MMi); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (2 males), 17 June (EW); LRen (male), 3 June (JM); Joliet (male), 17 June (JM).

Bell's Vireo

Brood: Popular Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (ad.+3 yg.), 7 Aug. (fide AA). MC: 4 (males), Nachusa Grasslands, 17 May-22 July (AH); 4 (males), Braidwood, 9 July (JM); 4, Spfld, 1 June (DB). Others: Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (2 males), June (JSu); Richton Park (Cook Co), 15-18 June (fide AA); Iroquois County C.A. (male), 25 June (RC); New Windsor (Mercer Co) (male), 28 June (VK); RLCA (male), May/June (KR); Bath (Mason Co) (male), 17 June (KR); HL (2), 24 May-23 June and (1), 13 July (KM); Saugat (St. Clair Co), 4 July (KM).

Solitary Vireo

Lowden-Miller S.F. (male in pine plantation), May/June (SR).

Yellow-throated Vireo

Young: Woodstock (2 yg.), 24 June (RBa). MC: 5, Joliet, 17 June (JM); 3 (males), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co), 19-26 June (RC, EC); 3, Monroe County, 11 June (KM).

Warbling Vireo

MC: 11, Monroe County, 11 June (KM); 11, HL, 4 July (KM); 10 (including 8 males), LCal, 9 June (WM); 10+, Iroquois

County C.A., 25 June (RC); 9, Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co), 12 June (JSa). Others: JP (11 territories), thru June (PC).

Red-eyed Vireo

MC: 23 (males), M.Arb, 28 May (EW); 13, Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co), 12 June (JSa); 12, Joliet, 17 June (JM). Others: Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (3 prs.), 1-27 June (SD).

Blue-winged Warbler

Lowden-Miller S.F. (in recent clearcuts), June (fide SR); Dan Wright Woods F.P. (Lake Co) (male), 31 May (SH); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (3 males including one w/ food for yg.), 17 June (EW); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co) (male), 17 June (KR); Pope County, 2 June (TF).

Golden-winged Warbler

Castle Rock S.P. (male mated with a Blue-winged Warbler), May/June (SR); **Lowden-Miller S.F.** (male), May/June (SR).

Northern Parula

Mahomet (Champaign Co) (2 males), 26 June (RC).

Yellow Warbler

MC: 22 (including 21 males), LCal, 9 June (WM). Others: Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (10 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); Buffalo Grove F.P. (Lake Co) (4 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (7), 4 June (JSu); Iroquois County C.A. (7+ = males and fledglings), 25 June (RC).

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Nests: **Plum Creek F.P.** (Cook Co) (3 yg.), **18 July** (EW) (see

seasonal highlights for more information). Others: Castle Rock S.P. (2-3 males), May/June (SR); Lowden Miller S.F. (**20-40 males**--in clearcuts), May/June (SR); IBSP (male), 26 June & 10 July (AS); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (4 males), 12-17 June (AS, EW); Iroquois County C.A. (male), 25 June (RC).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

Lowden-Miller S.F. (10-15 males, 6+ prs, 2 nests, in pines), May/June (SR). First nests ever found in Illinois (see separate story for more information).

Yellow-throated Warbler

Nests: **Channahon** (female nest-building in sycamore along I & M Canal), 2 May, but nest abandoned by 7 May (JM). (First Will County breeding record). Others: Castle Rock S.P. (male), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (50-100 males, in pines), May/June (SR); Sugar River F.P. (male), May/June (SR); Spfld (2), 9 June (DB); Madison County, 12 June (KM).

Cerulean Warbler

Castle Rock S.P. (**15-20 males, 2 nests**), May/June (SR); Sugar River F.P. (6 males), May/June (SR); Dan Wright Woods F.P. (Lake Co), 31 May (SH).

Black-and-white Warbler

Castle Rock S.P. (male), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (3 males), May/June (SR); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (male), 12-17 June (AS, EW).

American Redstart

Castle Rock S.P. (**20-30 males**), May/June (SR); Lowden-



Cedar Waxwing pair at nest along Evanston's Sheridan Road, Cook County, 20 June 1994. Photo by Eric Walters.



Female Kentucky Warbler near nest, Pilcher Park, Joliet, Will County, 17 June 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Miller S.F. (**30-50 males**), May/June (SR); JP (2 subad. males), thru 15 June (KC fide PC); Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co), 22 July (SD).

Prothonotary Warbler

Castle Rock S.P. (male), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (male), May/June (SR); RLCA (3 prs. nest-building), late May (KR); Germantown (Clinton Co) (2 nests), 21 May (KM fide RC); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (3 males + female on nest), 30 May (RC).

Worm-eating Warbler

Lowden-Miller S.F. (male), May/June (SR).

Ovenbird

Castle Rock S.P. (**20-30 males**), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (**200+ males**), May/June (SR); White Pines S.F. (small populations), June (fide SR); Nachusa Grasslands (male), 24 May & 25 June (AH); Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (2), 1 June (SD); Dan Wright Woods F.P. (Lake Co) (7), 31 May (SH); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (male), 17 June & 2 July (EW); Palos, McClaughry Springs Woods (male), 18 July (CT); Joliet (2 males), 17 June (JM); Iroquois County C.A. (2 males), 25 June (RC).

Louisiana Waterthrush

Lowden-Miller S.F. (male), May/June (SR); Palos (McLaughry Springs F.P.), (2 ad. w/ 2 fledglings), 19 June, and (one imm.), 4 July (JL).

Kentucky Warbler

Nests: Joliet (5 yg.), 17 June (JM). Others: Castle Rock S.P. (5+ males), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (**10+ males**), May/June (SR); Joliet (3 ad.), 17 June (JM).

Mourning Warbler

Lowden-Miller S.F. (3+ males, **1 pr.**), May/June (SR); IBSP (male), 26 June (AS); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (male), 12 June (AS).

Common Yellowthroat

MC: **150+** (120+ males + females & fledglings), Iroquois County C.A., 25 June (RC); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (15 males), 17 June (EW).

Hooded Warbler

Castle Rock S.P. (2 males), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (**6 males**), May/June (SR); Nachusa Grasslands (pr.), 29 May & 17 June (AH); Palos Park Woods (male), 31 May-16 July (CT).

CANADA WARBLER

Newly discovered populations at: Castle Rock S.P. (male), May/June (SR); Lowden-Miller S.F. (5 males), May/June (SR).

Yellow-breasted Chat

Lowden-Miller S.F. (10 males), May/June (SR); Pistakee Bog N.P. (Lake Co) (male), thru mid-July (MMi); IBSP (male), 25 June & 3 July (AS); Skokie Lagoons F.P., 12 June (JSa); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (4 males), 17 June (EW); Braidwood (2 males), 9 July (JM); New Windsor (Mercer Co) (male), 28 June (VK); RLCA, 3 July (KR, LA); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co) (male), 1 July (KR); Homer L (Champaign Co) (6), June (RC); Iroquois County C.A. (3), 25 June (RC).

Summer Tanager

Lowden-Miller S.F. (4-8 males), May/June (SR); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co), 1 July (KR); Iroquois County C.A. (male feeding immn.), 25 June (RC).

Scarlet Tanager

M.Arb (5 males), 28 May (EW); Iroquois County C.A. (5 males), 25 June (RC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (4 males), 17 June (EW); M.Arb (2 males), 28 May (EW); Iroquois County C.A. (15+ males), 25 June (RC); Monroe County, 11 June (KM); Carl L., 26 July (KM).

Blue Grosbeak

W. Will County (pr.), 9 July (male present since 6 May) (JM); w. Will County (2nd location), pr. w/ 2 fledged yg., 28 July (JM); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (male), 10 July+ (RC); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co) (4 males), June/July (KR); Spfld (male), 12 June and (female), 24 June (DB); Charleston (nest-building, but not completed), 29 May (BH); Monroe County, 11 June (KM); ESTL, 14 July (KM); Jefferson County (pr.), 24 July (TF); Pope County (9), 2 June (TF).

Indigo Bunting

MC: 61, Pope County, 2 June (TF); 55, Jefferson County, 1 June (TF); 27 (males) Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co), 17 June (EW); 20 (males), M.Arb, 28 May (EW).

Dickcissel

MC: 100+ (males), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co), 19-26 June (RC, EC); 56, Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co), 4 June (JSu); 45, Monroe County, 11 June (KM); 22, Jefferson County, 1 June (TF); 14 (12 males), GLPSP, 7 & 28 July (JM); 26 (males), Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co), 17 June (EW). Others: Nachusa

Grasslands (5 males), 22 May -22 July (AH); Buffalo Grove F.P. (Lake Co) (5 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); Urbana (nest-building), 23 June (RC).

Rufous-sided Towhee

MC: 35+ (males), Iroquois County C.A., 25 June (RC). Others: Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (8 males), 17 June (EW).



males), 19 June (RC); Bogota (Jasper Co) (male), 13 July (TE, JH).

Grasshopper Sparrow

MC: 43, Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co), 4 June (JSu); 30+ (males), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co), 19 June (RC); 15 (males), Nachusa Grasslands, 29 May-22 July (AH); 7, Monroe County, 11 June (KM); 5, Madison County, 12 June (KM).

Henslow's Sparrow

Nachusa Grasslands (male), 22 July (AH); Orland Park F.P. (Cook Co) (2 males), 4 June (AS); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (4 males), 12 June-18 July (EW,AS); GLPSP (3 males), 5 June, and (2 males), 7-28 July (JM); Iroquois County C.A. (**11 males**), 25 June (RC); RLCA, 5 June (KR) and (3 males), mid-June to late July (KR, LA); Bogota (Jasper Co) (**15 males**), June/July (TE et al.); Saline County (10), 5 June (TF); Pope County, 2 June & 16 July (TF).

*Left:
Adult Lark Sparrow defending
fledged young in Braidwood,
Illinois, Will County, 9 July 1994.
Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.*

Chipping Sparrow

Lowden-Miller S.F. ("enormous numbers"), June (fide SR). MC: 21 (ad. & yg.), New Lenox B.B.S. route (Will/Cook/Du Page Co), 1 July (JM).

Clay-colored Sparrow

Rockton (male), 5 June (JM), and (2), 14 June (TF); **Nachusa Grasslands** (male), 21 May-11 June (AH).

Field Sparrow

MC: 40+ (35+ males, females & fledglings), Iroquois County C.A., 25 June (RC); 18 (males), Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co), 17 June (EW); 10, Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co), 4 June (JSu).

Vesper Sparrow

MC: 30 (low), Monticello B.B.S. route (Piatt/McLean cos), 10 June (RC); 6, New Lenox (Will Co), 1 July (JM).

Lark Sparrow

Lowden-Miller S.F. (male), May/June (SR); Sugar River F.P. (7 males), May/June (SR); Nachusa Grasslands (2 males), 4 25 June (AH); **IBSP** (pr.), 14 May thru 11 June (AS,m.ob.); Braidwood (2 pr. w/ 3 yg.), 9 July; Rockton (Winnebago Co), 5 June (JM); Monroe County, 11 June (KM).

Savannah Sparrow

MC: 41, Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co), 4 June (JSu); 36, Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), 1 July (AA). Others: Buffalo Grove F.P. (Lake Co) (12+prs.), June (SD); Hopedale (Tazewell Co) (2 males), 4 July (JM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (6



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak fledgling at Plum Creek Forest Preserve, Cook County, 17 June 1994.
Photo by Eric Walters.*



Common Goldeneye, a rare summer lingerer in Illinois - in molt at Wilmette's North Shore Channel, Cook County, 18 June 1994.
Photo by Eric Walters.

Song Sparrow

MC: **72**, Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co), 4 June (JSu); 45, Flora B.B.S. route (Clay Co), 4 June (RC); 39 (including 32 males), LCal, 9 June (WM); 36, Madison County, 12 June (KM).

Swamp Sparrow

Spring Bluff F.P. (Lake Co) (7 prs.), 1-27 June (SD); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (6 males), 7 June (WM); LCal (5 males), 9 June (WM); Ferson Creek Fen (St. Charles, Kane Co) (male), 2 & 27 June (DS); Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co) (9), 4 June (JSu).

Bobolink

MC: **119**, Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co), 4 June (JSu); 53, Bartel Grasslands, 18 June (AS fide AA); 30 (20+ males), Iroquois County C.A., 25 June (RC). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (3 males), June/July (AH); Pistakee Bog N.P. (Lake Co) (4 males), 29 May (MMi); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (12 males), 17 June (EW); Hopedale (Tazewell Co) (pr.), 4 July (JM).

Eastern Meadowlark

MC: 94, Flora B.B.S. route (Clay Co), 4 June (RC); 88, Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co), 4 June (JSu); 72, Mt. Vernon B.B.S. route (Jefferson Co), 1 June (TF); 56, Monroe County, 11 June (KM).

Western Meadowlark

Bellflower (McLean Co), 10 June (RC); Spfld airport (singing male and yg.), 12 July (DB).

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Young: LCal (4 yg.), 26 June and (5 yg.), 2 July (WM); **Sand L** (Havana, Mason Co) (2 prs., including yg.), mid-May thru July (KR, RC, m.ob.). Others: LCal (10 = 5 males, 5 females), 9 June (WM); Chi (Egger's Woods) (6 males), 20 May (EW), and (2 males), 19 June (WM).

Brewer's Blackbird

IBSP (2 nesting prs.) June/July with fledged yg. by July (AS).

Brown-headed Cowbird

Host species at JP included: Indigo Bunting, Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Redwinged Blackbird and Bank Swallow (PC); the latter species is a "...very unusual and purely accidental case..." according to Bent (1942).

Orchard Oriole

8 territories in w. Cook Co (4 confirmed fledglings), June+ (fide AA); Nachusa Grasslands (2 subad. males, and 2 nests), June (AH); Braidwood (6, including 2 yg.), 9 July (JM); e. Grundy County (ad. feeding yg.), 11 July (JM); New Windsor (Mercer Co) (male), 28 June (VK); Monroe County (8), 11 June (KM).

House Finch

Nest: Evanston, 3 Apr. (very early--5 yg. fledged on 8 May) (EW). MC: 61, Will County (part of New Lenox B.B.S. route), 1 July (JM).

Pine Siskin

Nests: **Lowden-Miller S.F.** (4 prs, **2 nests**), May/June (SR); Urbana (nest-building), 4 Mar. (RC); **Palos** (nest-building, failed), 9 Apr. (WS fide RC); **CBG** (nest-building), 18 Apr. (LB fide RC). Others: Urbana (4 imm.), 13 May (RC).

NON-BREEDING SUMMER OCCURRENCES

Common Loon

Mahomet (Champaign Co) (non-breeding plumage), 26 June (RC); Petersburg (Menard Co) (non-breeding plumage), 24 June-24 July (CB).

American White Pelican

MS, since early spring thru late Oct. (AS, m.ob.).

Greater White-fronted Goose

Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (injured ad.), June/July (KR, m.ob.).

Green-winged Teal

Cedar L Marsh (Lake Co) (male), 14 June (DJ); LCal (1 male, 2 females), 2 July (WM), but, (1 female), 3 July (WM); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (pr.), 2 July (RC).

American Black Duck

Arcola (Douglas Co) (4 ad.), 3 July (RC).

Northern Pintail

Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (male), 2 July (RC).

Northern Shoveler

Decatur (pr.), June/July (MD); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co)

(male), 2 July (RC); Arcola (Douglas Co) (male), 3 July (RC).

American Wigeon

LCal (3), 9 July (WM).

Redhead

Jefferson County (injured male), 27 June (TF).

Ring-necked Duck

Arcola (Douglas Co) (3 male & 1 female), May-23 June (RC); Charleston (male), 20 June (BH); HL (Eagle Park) (male), 16 May-1 Aug., but, (2 males), 9 June (KM); Sang.L (male), 2-22 June (DB).

Lesser Scaup

JP (female in worn plumage), 26 July (PC); Sand L (Havana, Mason Co) (3), 2 July (RC).

Common Goldeneye

Wilmette (molting male), 7 May-18 June (EW--photo).

Common Merganser

Joliet (4 males, 3 females), 1 June; (1 male, 4 female), 6 June; and (4 females), 12 July--no evidence of breeding at this site (JM).

Ruddy Duck

Spfld (2--males), 2 June and (1) thru 18 June (DB).

Osprey

Braidwood, 9 July--"probably summering" (JM).



*Osprey probably summering in area at Braidwood, Illinois, Cook County, 8 July 1994.
Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.*

American Coot

Sang.L (3), June/July (DB).

American Golden-Plover

Decatur (2-6 in breeding plumage, at least 2 w/ injured wings), June/July (MD); Charleston (2 - 1 in breeding plumage), 20 June (BH).

Laughing Gull

Spfld (ad. & subad.), 8-9 June and (subad.), 23-24 June (DB); Evanston (ad.) 19-20 June (EW).

Ring-billed Gull

Jefferson County (71), 9 July (TF); Rend L (50), 17 July (TF); Spfld (decreasing to 20), 30 June (DB).

Caspian Tern

IBSP (2 6), 4 June-10 July (AS); Evanston 20 June-7 July (EW);

Chi, 25 June (JL).

Forster's Tern

Jefferson County (subad.), 1 & 27 June (TF).

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Northbrook (female), mid June (fide AA).

White-throated Sparrow

Mendota (La Salle Co), 1 July (JHa).

continued on next page



*Common Mergansers, one male, four females at Brandon Locks in Joliet, Illinois, Will County, 6 June 1994.
Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.*

EXOTICS

Trumpeter Swan

9 July (ad. with green wing band), IBSP (AS).

Ruffed Grouse

18 July, Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (EW).

Monk Parakeet

Nests: Berwyn (2), June (fide AA); Chi (Montrose Harbor), **late Oct.**- 1 yg. dead on ground 4 Nov. (JPu); Chi (Hyde Park, Washington Park and resident areas), June (PC); Calumet Park (Cook Co) (2 nests), 20 May (EW, WS). Others: Evanston (**albino**), 7 July (EW); JP (flock of 7--possibly a family), 10 July (PC); 23 July, Wilmette (EW).

Blackhoodcd Parakeet

Evanston, 13 June (EW).

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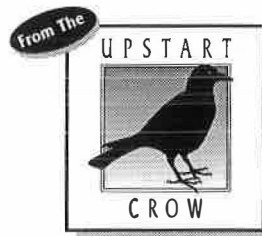
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*Yellow-headed Blackbird in Havana, Illinois, 1 July 1994.
Photo by Dennis Oehrke.*