

alder flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Tyrannidae

ILLINOIS STATUS: common, native

FEATURES

The alder flycatcher is a small bird, about five and one-half inches in length (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). It has a light eye ring and two, white wing bars. The body is uniformly gray-green. The male and the female have the same appearance. The flattened bill has tiny bristles at the base. The legs are short.

BEHAVIORS

The alder flycatcher is a common migrant throughout Illinois. It may be seen along forest edges and fence rows as it moves through the state. Spring migrants are in Illinois from May through July. This bird does nest close to Illinois, as it is a common nester in Wisconsin. The nest is built in a shrub and placed less than six feet above the ground. It is composed of a loose arrangement of grasses, mosses, cattail down and other plant materials. Three or four white eggs with brown markings are deposited by the female. She alone incubates for the 12- to 14-day incubation period. Fall migration through Illinois occurs from August through October. The alder flycatcher winters in South America. This flycatcher eats insects. The song produced by this bird is "fee-bee-o."

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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