

NESTING OF THE ACADIAN FLYCATCHER IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY

BY RICHARD F. MILLER

Witmer Stone attests the rarity of the Acadian Flycatcher in southern New Jersey when he states that he never saw one there even on migration. (Birds of Old Cape May, page 682.) Consequently it is thought worthwhile to review the records of this species for the locality.

Near Dennisville in Cape May County, J. Harris Reed and Mark L. C. Wilde found two nests in 1893. One was found on May 29 and the other on June 11. Each nest contained three eggs. For many years one of these nests was in the collection of bird nests of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

At Rio Grande, Cape May County, May 30, 1925, a pair of birds was seen by Turner E. McMullen and I in some swampy woodland. The male was singing. A year later on the same date we saw a male bird singing in the same swamp.

Near Dennisville, Cape May County, June 13, 1926, I saw a pair with the male singing in a large swampy wood along a sluggish stream not far from the place where Reed and Wilde found the bird nesting nearly a generation ago. Judging by their behavior these birds were also nesting but, as I was at the time unaware of the rarity of its nesting in the locality, I did not search for the nest.

In company with others I have the following records of singing birds during the nesting season: Pensauken, Camden County, May 30, 1904; Chatsworth, Burlington County, June 1, 1907; Heislerville, Cumberland County, May 28, 1922; and Pennsville, Salem County, June 16, 1922.

In large swampy woods at Pennsville, Salem County I found my only Acadian Flycatcher's nest in southern New Jersey on March 13, 1921.

A bird observed and heard singing on May 27, 1934 at Roseland, Morris County in the famous Troy Meadows is mentioned on account of its rarity in the nesting season in northern New Jersey.

In 1943 two nests of the Acadian Flycatcher were found in southern New Jersey. These are the first authentic nesting records in a long time. One nest was found on June 13 at Haddonfield, Camden County by Julian K. Potter. The second was found July 10 at Beverly, Burlington County by J. Fletcher Street. Each nest contained three eggs.