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*The Acadian Flycatcher is an uncommon, but increasing breeder in moist forests in the lower Hudson River Valley.*

**Conservation Status**

Partners in Flight identifies the Acadian Flycatcher as a Species of Regional Concern and Regional Stewardship in Bird Conservation Region 28. NYS Breeding Bird Atlas data indicate a slightly increasing distribution in the Hudson River Valley and across the state.

**Identification**

This small, hard-to-identify flycatcher has olive-brown upperparts, two buffy wing bars, pale underparts, an olive band across the breast, and a comparatively heavy bill with a dark upper and pale lower mandible. It has a distinctive song—an explosive, upwardly ascending “peet-sah.”

**Habitat**

This bird is found in mature, moist deciduous forests generally near a stream such as shaded ravines, riparian woodlands, and wooded swamps. It requires a high dense canopy and an open under story. It tends to be scarce or absent in small forest tracts, unless the tract is near a larger forested area. Acadian Flycatchers require relatively undisturbed mature forest and floodplain forests must be more than 400-500 feet wide before they become suitable. The minimum forest area needed to sustain a viable breeding population is 80 to 125 acres.

**Food**

Acadian Flycatchers forage on a wide range of insect prey, including deer flies and mosquitoes as well as other arthropods. They forage by gleaning the undersurfaces of leaves and by capturing insects in the air and occasionally on the ground.

**Nesting**

Nesting sites are usually associated with water. The nesting territory size is generally 1.5 to 4 acres. The female builds the nest, which is a shallow, loose, flimsy-looking cup made of fine dry plant stems, plant fibers, tendrils, and catkins held together with spider silk. The nest is placed, hammock-like, in a fork of the lower branches of a small tree, generally 8-20 ft. above the ground.

**Threats**

- Habitat loss and degradation due to development.
- Forest fragmentation that leads to a high rate of parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds.

**Management Recommendations**

- Conserve and maintain large contiguous forest of at least 80 to 125 acres.



**This species summary is adapted from NatureServe 2008 and Whitehead and Taylor 2002.**

**For more information, see the following references:**

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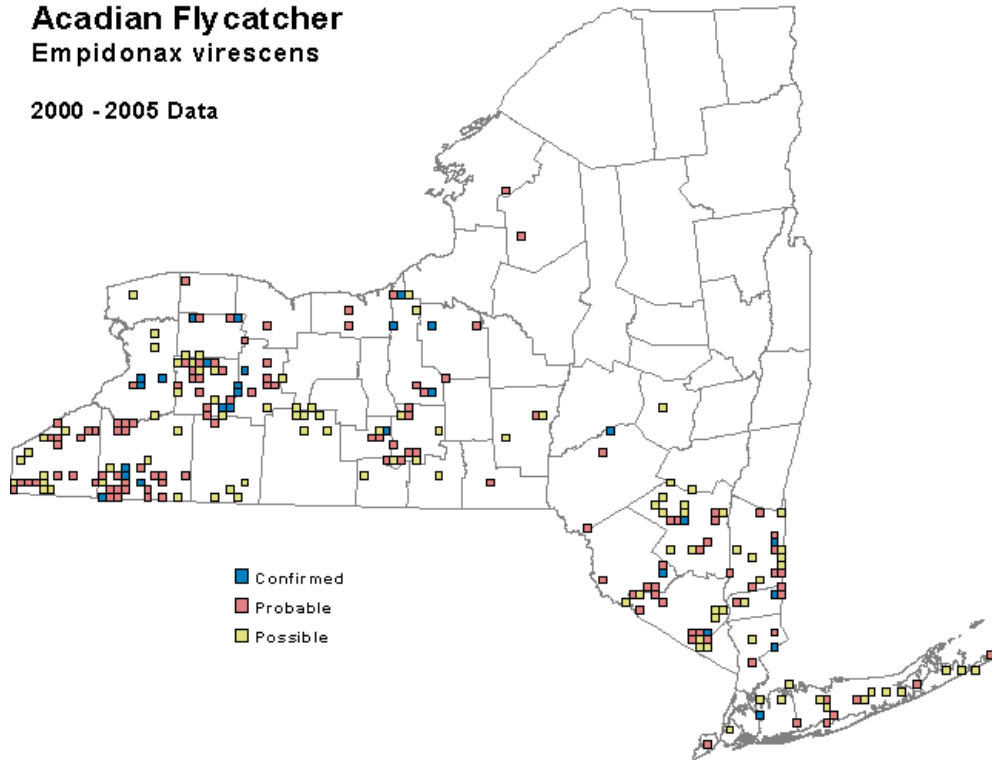
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## NYS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMPARATIVE DATA

### Acadian Flycatcher

*Empidonax virescens*

2000 - 2005 Data



### Acadian Flycatcher

*Empidonax virescens*

1980 - 1985 Data

