

This resource is based on the following source:

Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

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## Acadian Flycatcher     *Empidonax virescens*

The Acadian, or Green-backed Flycatcher, is the only *Empidonax* flycatcher that breeds in Florida. Its explosive "giddi-up" song is usually heard on the breeding grounds. The Acadian Flycatcher is found in deciduous forests from southern Ontario to central Florida and west to eastern Oklahoma and south Texas. The Acadian Flycatcher winters in Central America and northern South America.

**Habitat.** Acadian Flycatchers inhabit river swamp forest with a closed canopy and relatively open understory throughout north Florida, southward into central Florida. They are also found in beech magnolia forests, mesic hammocks, bay and cypress swamps, and wooded ravines. The diet of the Acadian Flycatcher consists mostly of insects, all captured on the wing.

Acadian Flycatchers exhibit a long-term pair bond and strong fidelity to breeding territory (Ehrlich et al. 1988). Nests are frail (Terres 1980) and built by the females in a fork near the end of a branch, 1 to 6 m (4 to 20 ft) high. Nests are constructed of twigs, bark, grass, and sometimes Spanish moss. The 2 to 4 eggs are white, speckled with brown, and incubated for 14 days. Nestlings fledged in another 14 days (Ehrlich et al. 1988).

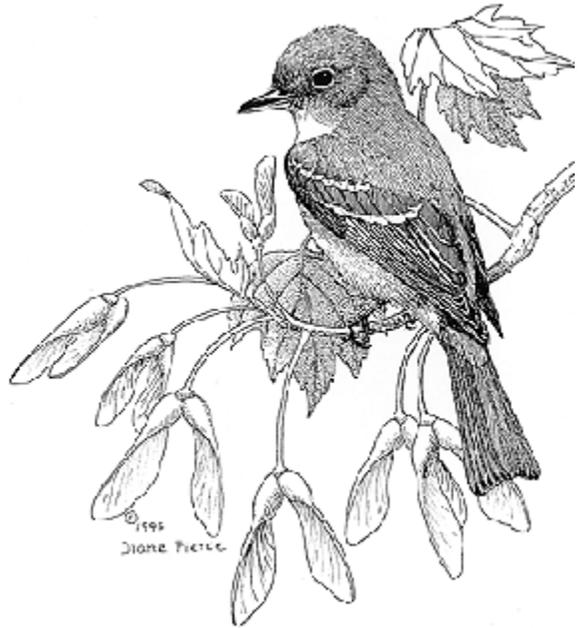


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**Seasonal Occurrence.** Acadian Flycatchers begin arriving in Florida in early April. Egg laying begins in early May. Fall migration runs from late July to late October or early November.

**Status.** Comparing the Atlas map with the map in Howell (1932) suggests little change in the distribution of the species in Florida in the past 50 years, except for the lack of records in Hernando and Osceola counties during the Atlas period. The southernmost record, a singing bird in western Indian River County, was probably a male on territory late in May. Many birders in central Florida may not be familiar with the song of the Acadian Flycatcher, therefore, it may have been missed in some quadrangles where it was actually present.

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