

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Early fledgling date for Eastern Phoebe: On 26 May, 1985, while engaged in Atlas work on the Carmen's River in eastern Suffolk County, I became aware of the note and presence of a flycatcher that appeared new to me. The double note (*seebit* or the like), the olive coloration of the bird, a pair of buffy wing bars and the trace of an eye ring suggested an unfamiliar *Empidonax*, an *Empidonax*, I should add, that wagged its short tail vigorously but otherwise did not move.

The mystery was eventually solved when two adult Eastern Phoebes appeared and fed what now could be clearly seen as a fledgling. This is earlier by two weeks than the earliest fledgling date – 9 June – given by Bull for *Sayornis phoebe* in *Birds of New York State*.

The Eastern Phoebe is surprisingly rare as a breeding bird on Long Island (hence accounting for my unfamiliarity with its early plumages) and the Carmen's River has long been one of its strongholds. Apparently Long Island data has been lacking for this species. This pair, which nested in classic phoebe fashion under a bridge over the river, raised a second brood in the month of June with more young birds active in the area in the second week of July.

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