

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

Contopus cooperi

SARA STATUS: THREATENED

IDENTIFICATION TIPS:

Large head, sometimes looks peaked at the rear



Weight: 28-40g

Length: 18-20cm

Wingspan: 32-35cm

Medium-sized songbird.

Described as "wearing a vest"

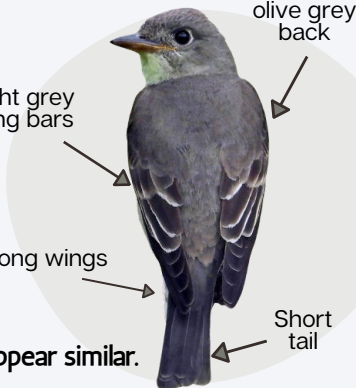
Males and females appear similar.

Light grey wing bars

Long wings

Brown to olive grey back

Short tail



Very distinct, **three-note** song that sounds like "**Quick! Three beers!**"

HABITAT

Olive-sided flycatchers prefer wet mixed and coniferous forests which border boggy areas, riparian margins, and wetlands. They are known to use areas with abundant tall trees and snags which they use for singing, feeding, and surveying for predators.



THREATS

Threats to the olive-sided flycatcher are numerous, complex, and occur on their breeding and wintering grounds, as well as their migration routes.

- **Loss of habitat** as a result of increased forest harvesting and silviculture, residential and commercial development.
- **A change in food supply** due to exposure to pesticides, invasive species, climate change and environmental contaminants.



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NEST

Females choose the nest site with males occasionally participating in site selection. Nests are **usually placed in coniferous trees**, sometimes even in dead or previously burned conifers. Nests are placed on the tip of a horizontal branch, well away from the trunk of the tree. They **defend their nests aggressively**, chasing rivals and predators away vigorously.

Nests have a small foundation of twigs, with a lining of grass, lichens and conifer needles. Females lay **3-4 eggs** and incubate for 15-19 days. Juveniles fledge 15-19 days after hatching.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Avoid the use of insecticides whenever possible.
- Leave snags and dead trees where they stand.
- Plant trees, shrubs and flowers that are native to PEI. Non-native plants can threaten ecosystems by outcompeting native plants, and do not provide the same habitat benefits as native vegetation.
- Support environmentally conscious companies (eg. shade-grown coffee and chocolate producers from South America). By doing so, you help protect important wintering habitat for many of our forest bird species.
- Report any sightings of olive-sided flycatchers using [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) or to Julie-Lynn Zahavich using the contact information below!

Julie-Lynn Zahavich

Environment, Energy and Climate Action

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