

they were warm and well fed, and the merry chatter when they played among themselves. Later they developed an alarm note when they thought danger threatened. These are all notes accepted as common in all young chicks, but what is most interesting to report is a peculiar call that they have used in conjunction with the feeding call. It was tinkling, melodious, and sweetly shrill, strongly reminiscent of the song of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. In fact, I cannot describe it in any other way. As the birds got older this call became more guttural but it was still recognizable as the "Kinglet" call. As I write this they are starting the fourth week of their visit with me. They are still active, curious, and flying about freely, although they are brought in each night. They respond to a low whistle and are a star attraction for all who chance to see them.

I have found nothing difficult about raising the birds so far, other than an intelligent appraisal of their needs as a species, and I hope to rear them to maturity. I have used medication in their drinking water when gaping indicated gape-worms, found that they are ninety percent vegetarians, noted the unusual song as described above, and best of all have found that a naturally very wild species not usually considered adaptable to hand rearing can be reared with care. I have noted the responses which I have concluded are adopted and those which obviously are inherited, and I shall report these and my success at rearing the birds to maturity at a later date. — Tom Lesperance, Keeseville

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON JUNE — AUGUST 15, 1958

JAMES K. MERITT

Observations during the summer season indicate that the period was quite similar to that of last spring. Most birds continued to be relatively scarce, and one can only hope that a successful breeding season will alleviate this condition to some extent. Throughout the state temperatures were below normal, and rainfall exceeded the average everywhere but in the extreme eastern section which missed some of the violent storms which came in from the west.

There was little evidence of any southern heron flight. Common Egrets were reported from most localities, but these reports indicate that the birds arrived late and in poor numbers.

Of interest, however, is the number of reports of the Red-headed Woodpecker. This species was observed in Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen near Rochester (on the Lake Road near Webster — O'Hara).

Fred Hough presents an interesting summary of bird life in the higher Catskills in his regional report. As he indicates, more thorough studies in some of these seldom visited areas, would probably yield interesting and informative results.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

The slight coolness of May was considerably exceeded during June when the average temperature departed 3.6°F from the normal. It was a fairly sunny month, however, and the clear nights contributed to the coolness with low minimum temperatures. Consequently Lakes Erie and Ontario remained quite cold until well into the summer. The only weather dis-