

During the weeks that followed, the young sapsuckers developed the colorful red markings on head and chin and yellow on the belly. They continued to come to the trees each day and only showed spirit when a hummingbird wanted to share their food. They would dart at the hummingbird and drive him away. However, the hummers would just light on a branch, and wait their chance to slip in unobserved and then dart away with a beakful of sap.

The sapsuckers again gave me a surprise when I observed four of them one evening in the dead branches of a tall willow flying out and catching insects in the air in the manner of flycatchers.

It was on the last day of September that I last saw one of the young males on the feeding place. His feathers were bright and colorful. He remained motionless as I approached, within a few feet, making what I hoped were friendly sounds to a sapsucker. Since then the willows have been deserted.

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Notes on Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Oneida Area: It now appears almost certain that Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in this vicinity are actually increasing, as has been suggested by F. Scheider, (Kingbird VI, #3, p97) and documented for Northern New York by Belknap (Kingbird VII, #3, p87).

My notes in this area showed no sightings of this species for many years prior to 1952, which is just a year later than Mr. Belknap dates their reappearance in Northern New York state. Following that year, I have recorded them regularly, with numbers and locations slowly increasing. They have disappeared from only one or two of the known earlier locations, tending to return every year to the same general area, and often to the same tree.

Last year a report was made after correlating the records of several interested people in Oneida and Sherrill, with the resulting data showing 9 **probable** nesting locations—(Kingbird XII, #3, p154).

This year a special effort was made to find actual nest holes, and, if possible, to determine success of the nesting. The results show a total of ten occupied nest holes, with an additional five locations where sight records were made but no nest located. These sight records were made during July when the birds would not be expected to be moving about and so should not duplicate any of the nesting count. Adult birds were seen feeding young at eight of the ten nesting sites. At least twenty-eight adult birds were counted plus eleven in immature plumage.

All of these records were obtained within a ten mile radius of the city of Oneida, in Oneida and Madison Counties. The nesting sites were either on little-used roads, or else well back from a main road. The preferred habitat seems to be open groves or scattered trees in meadowland, with some dead trees or dead stubs in live trees. They have been found both in upland areas south of Oneida and in the flat country of the Oneida Lake plain.

Only one of the nests under observation was known to be abandoned, possibly because of competition from Starlings. A second nesting was noted in another case, with three young out of the nest about July 21st, and the parent birds showing courtship activity a few days before that. On Aug. 4th, one adult was in attendance on the three young, who were also feeding independently, and the other adult was in the original nest hole. By Aug. 20th the second brood was being fed at the nest and the three immatures of the first nesting were still in the neighborhood.

In watching the various birds feeding young, we noticed that one bird of a pair (the female ?) had selected a particular stub to which it flew each time it brought food, and used it as a shelf or chopping board on which to mash the morsel, preparatory to feeding it to the young ones. This behavior was observed in two different pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers.

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