

THE CARDINAL IN THE WATERTOWN AREA

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The Cardinal is one of a number of species with southern affinities which has recently extended its range northward. It is now well established in many parts of New York State. The following summarizes the results of my observations in the Watertown area during the past fifteen years.

I first saw the Cardinal on May 23, 1954 at Huntingtonville Hill, a short distance east of Watertown. One was seen in the same area in April of the following year. It was missed in 1956, but on November 16, 1957 a male appeared at our feeders for the first time. From then on Cardinals came more regularly to the feeding station. Both sexes were represented but it was not until March 1964 that both were seen together. Now they were regular visitors, with as many as five appearing at one time. The maximum number was eight on February 5, 1966.

On July 25, 1965 a pair brought three young to the feeder. The young had just been fledged and it was evident that the nest was not too far distant. Again in 1966 young were brought in on two occasions, the second time being October 5, an unusually late date. In 1968 a female brought in three young on August 18.

During the past five years I have seen the Cardinal at the following places: Huntington Island, Huntingtonville, Thompson Park, Sandy Creek Valley, Eldorado, Stony Point, Pillar Point, Brownville, Anthony Farm and Great Bend. This forms almost a complete circle around Watertown, demonstrating that the Cardinal is now well established in the area.

(The above was written by Mr. Allen shortly before his death in January 1969. He had been an active field observer, mainly in the Watertown area. A past president of the North Country Bird Club, he took part in various cooperative enterprises including the Audubon Christmas Count, the Winter Waterfowl Count, and the Fish & Wildlife Service Roadside Survey. He contributed a number of "field notes" to earlier issues of *The Kingbird*. He was particularly interested in studying the nesting habits of birds and submitted many records in connection with the Nesting Record Census. Mr. Allen was a member of the American Ornithologists Union, the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. — John B. Belknap.)