

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Hooded Warbler Breeding in Tompkins County: Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*) are not common in New York and typically nest in lowland riparian habitat and the lake plains (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 518). I report herein an unusual New York observation of successful nesting by the Hooded Warbler at a high elevation, in upland hardwood forest in the Finger Lakes Region. This may well be the first documentation of nesting for this species in Tompkins County. On 29 May 1979, a male Hooded Warbler was first observed singing at an elevation of 1800 feet in the northeast corner of Cornell University's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Van Etten, Tompkins County. The bird was on a northeast-facing ridge covered with beech-maple forest and a dense understory of striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), sugar maple (*A. saccharum*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and clumps of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). On 31 May, the male was again observed singing and a female was seen in the branches of a fallen beech. However, no nest could be found in the area. On later dates (18, 19, 20 June), the male was heard singing, but the female was not found at that time.

Then on the evening of 25 June, the female was found feeding in the understory and on the ground. While foraging, the bird was continually chipping. After ten minutes, she stopped chipping and flew to a nest. The nest was .5 m high in the branches of a .75 m high beech sapling. The nest also was attached to the overhanging branches of a dead beech limb which covered the northwest side of the nest. The outside of the nest was covered with dead leaves and the cup was lined with pine needles.

On 27 June, R. J. Gutiérrez from Cornell and C. R. Smith from the Laboratory of Ornithology observed the female on the nest and found that the nest contained three brown speckled eggs. The male was again heard singing. The next day, while showing the nest to R. Howard of Cornell, we found that there were two males singing on the ridge.

By 8 July, two of the three eggs had hatched. I could not find any sign of any other females or nests in the area although both males were still singing. Eight days later on 16 July the female was found feeding two fledglings some 400 m south of the nest site across the county line in Cayuga, Schuyler County. The fledglings were fully feathered, except for their tails.

The nest was found empty except for some egg shells. It would appear that the third egg never hatched and was broken by the two nestlings. The nest was collected and is now in the Cornell University Ornithology Collection.

Although this species is usually associated with lowland areas in New York, the Arnot Forest site is not unlike that found in parts of the bird's southern breeding range (C. R. Smith, pers. comm.). In addition, Hooded Warbler males also were observed singing on nearby upland sites during the spring at Hammond Hill (elev. 1850-1900') by C. R. Smith and others.

I would like to thank R. J. Gutiérrez and C. R. Smith for verifying these observations and reading this note. These observations were made while the writer was supported by U.S.D.A. Hatch grant 4719 to R. J. Gutiérrez.

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For the past ten years, the difficult and thankless task of Circulation Manager has been ably handled by Dr. Frederick C. Dittrich of Syracuse, New York. He has now given up that post, and the task will be assumed by Constance N. Wilkins of Cortland, New York.

The editors of *The Kingbird* wish to say, "Thank you, Ted," for a job well done.