

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Another breeding locality for the Redhead: On 4 July 1981 the authors set out by canoe on the Upper Chateaugay Lake in southwest Clinton County toward the inlet of the south end of the lake. The inlet is surrounded on both sides by an extensive marsh. Shortly after entering the inlet we came upon a female Redhead (*Anthya americana*) and her eight or ten young. The brood immediately took cover, flapping frantically across the water to the marshy area. The female, in the meantime, led us away in the opposite direction. She would allow us to approach to within about 50 feet. After leading us astray for a sufficient distance, she would fly back to the vicinity of her brood. There she would call them and in a short time they were united again. On 6 July we returned to observe them further.

Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 134) mentions only ten breeding areas in the state. Most of these are as a result of a stocking program conducted by the New York State Conservation Dept. during the 1950's and 1960's. At a number of these areas, breeding colonies have been established. One of the areas that has had good success is the Wilson Hill Refuge, St. Lawrence County. *The Kingbird* (vol. 30, No. 4, Fall 1980) reported six on 1 July; 44 on 14 July; 90 on 31 July; and 300 on 16 August at Wilson Hill Refuge. Possibly this nesting at Upper Chateaugay Lake stems from the released birds that now nest at Wilson Hill Refuge each year. Bellrose (1976, *Ducks, Geese and Swans of N. Am.*, p. 319) says that in spite of their record for homing, Redheads vie with Ruddy Ducks and Blue-winged Teals as pioneers. This may explain as well the breeding of Redheads at Kings Bay, Clinton County, and Lac Saint Francois in Huntington County, Quebec (Weller, 1964, *J. of Wildlife Management* vol. 28, pp. 64-103).

The young Redheads we saw were early Class II stage (Bellrose, 1976, p. 26). Assuming a 24-day incubation period, with ten eggs to a clutch, nesting would have begun the first or second week in May. This would be similar to what has been found in the southeastern part of their breeding range where they started to nest as early as 5 May (Bellrose, 1976, p. 322).

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