

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Red-headed Woodpecker Breeding in Clinton County. In 1957 J. B. Belknap (*Kingbird* Vol. VII, No. 3, pp. 87-88) suggested that there is considerable evidence that the Red-headed Woodpecker is increasing as a summer resident in northern New York. For Clinton Co., one of New York's most northern counties, the evidence for increased numbers is much more recent. Philip Warren (*Birds of Clinton County*) reported that prior to the spring of 1979 there were only four positive sightings for the county. Since 1979, however, the number of reports have increased and, more significantly, reports during the breeding season have increased. However, this increase is limited to southern Champlain and northern Chazy townships only. This type of population increase over a restricted area is similar to what has been reported for other areas of the state, most notable of which is Ackley's report for the Oneida area (*Kingbird* Vol. XVI, No. 4, p. 214).

This area of Clinton Co. is open country with scattered woodlots used primarily for farming. It borders Lake Champlain and ranges in elevation from 100-250 feet above sea level. It is also my impression that the bird shows a decided preference for the river bottoms in this area (Little and Great Chazy Rivers and Corbeau Creek).

In August 1981 adults were seen feeding juvenals at two locations. This represents the first known evidence of breeding for the Red-headed Woodpecker in Clinton Co. In July, at another location, adults were repeatedly observed retrieving insects, using as a perch a large dead tree to which they returned each time prior to flying off in the same direction to a probable nesting site. This procedure was observed on numerous occasions over a period of two weeks.

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