

Saranac Lake. As Bellrose (*Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, 1980) states that Redheads—along with Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy Ducks—are one of the first species to move into an area, it does not seem unreasonable to find them at another Adirondack location only 35 to 40 miles from their newly found breeding location at Upper Chateaugay.

With breeding for this species confirmed at two Adirondack lakes in the past two summers, it would be prudent for birders working in the northern Adirondacks, especially in the lakes district of Franklin and St. Lawrence counties, to be on the lookout for further evidence of breeding by Redhead in suitable habitat.

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A Blue Jay Feeding on Large Mayflies: On 14 June, 1982, while canoeing up a small stream near the Forest Home Road in Saranac Lake, I approached a beaver dam blocking the stream. Beyond the dam, the stream widened to twenty to twenty-five feet, and the forest receded from the stream banks, leaving an open meadow of heather, leatherleaf, Labrador Tea, and a few scattered alders near the water. There were a great many birds flying about this meadow and over the water. Alder and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Tree Swallows, Chimney Swifts, Cedar Waxwings and Yellow-rumped Warblers were feeding on the hoards of flying insects over the stream—midges, mosquitoes, and the ever-present blackfly. There was also a good number of very large Mayflies, emerging from the water, flying overhead, skipping along the surface of the water laying their eggs, and lying spent on the surface film afterwards. These Mayflies were approximately two to two and one-half inches in length, with a wingspan equal to their length. Most likely, they were of the species *Hexagenia bilineata*. Although these large Mayflies were by far the most conspicuous insect in the area, it appeared that they were being ignored by the squadrons of avian predators which were in such abundance. Just then, a Blue Jay caught my attention as it swooped low over the water, snapped up a Mayfly in flight, and flew up to a perch in a dead birch tree, which was leaning out over the stream. It proceeded to quickly devour its prey, and then flew out and positioned itself on the topmost branch of the birch. For a minute or so it seemed to be watching the insect activity over the stream. Then it darted out over the water, dropped down to a height of 6-8 feet above the surface, and pursued a Mayfly. Turning and twisting, the jay made several passes at the Mayfly, before finally pulling up short in a hovering attitude, like a kestrel, or Eastern Kingbird, and catching its prey in its bill. The hunter returned to the same perch, and finished its meal. This activity was repeated several more times—with equal success—before I continued on.

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