

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Late Nesting of Red-bellied Woodpecker: Ten years ago a female Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) appeared at my feeder in the winter. We live in the Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, at an elevation of 1325 feet. We are not near any streams that are the regular migration pattern for this species. However, we are on a major southbound migration route for fall birds. Since that time, we have regularly had at least one Red-bellied Woodpecker at our feeder in the winter.

In 1980, we had the first successful nesting of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in this vicinity. The adults brought the young to the feeders for suet.

On Saturday, 30 June 1984, one fledged young was brought to my next-door neighbor's suet. To my knowledge, there is only one pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers nearby. The male shows considerable amount of red on his belly which is unusual in the birds I see here. In mid-August, I heard and saw a very agitated Red-bellied Woodpecker at the bottom of my property. I watched as it carried food to a hole in a dead elm tree. The last week in August, both parents were carrying food to this hole regularly. Most of the food that I saw was red berries. The young were very large by 27 August and leaning way out of the nest hole to secure food. The last bird that I saw in the cavity was at 8:00 a.m. on 30 August, 1984. There were none there later in the day.

Birds of New York, (Bull, 1974, Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, NY) and the nest record card program at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University both give 13 August as the latest fledging date for this species.

It is suggested that this species is single-brooded in the north. I am fairly certain that the same pair brought off this late second brood after fledging only one young in June.

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