

DOUBLE-NESTING BY RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS IN NEW YORK STATE

In the December, 2010 *Kingbird*, I reported on the latest apparent fledging of a Red-bellied Woodpecker thus far in New York State (Hyman, RB.2010. Late Fledging of Red-Bellied Woodpecker in New York State. *The Kingbird* 60: 311-312) and speculated that it was probably a second nesting after a failed first attempt rather than a second successful brood.

As stated in my 2010 article, according to the species account in *Birds of North America* (Shackelford, C.E., R. E. Brown, & R. N. Conner. 2000. Red-bellied Woodpecker. *Birds of North America*, No. 500), one successful brood is typical in the northern parts of the Red-bellied Woodpecker's range, though in the South they may have two-three broods. Red-bellied Woodpeckers in New York, however, may attempt a second nest when the first fails (McGowan, J.K. & K. Corwin, Eds. 2008. *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* Cornell University Press: Ithaca, NY).

Also as noted in the 2010 article, the most northerly instances of second broods noted in *Birds of North America* include one example from Connecticut (Sullivan, E. 1992. Red-bellied Woodpecker raises two broods in Connecticut. *Conn. Warbler* 12: 24-25) and one from New York (Crumb, D. W. 1984. Late nesting of a Red-bellied Woodpecker. *Kingbird* 34: 231). In the case of the New York record, nestlings were observed being fed at a nest site in Onondaga County through 30 August, with fledging suspected that day and an earlier successful nesting by the same pair at the site strongly suspected.

After the 2010-2011 breeding season, I can report quite confidently that my pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers had two successful nests. Both male and female birds were around all winter, with the female predominating in my sightings. Both male and female showed up with one fledgling on 20 June. The female disappeared with the fledgling and I did not see her again until 4 July, though I did see the fledgling once alone. The male was a daily visitor as of 1 July, and I saw the female every two-three days between 4 July and 22 July after which she disappeared again.

On 22 August three woodpeckers were here, one male, one juvenile, and one unknown. I saw no fledgling feeding on that day but did see the male

feeding a fledgling on 23 August. I frequently saw a fledgling feeding alone from 23 August through 6 September (and beyond). On 7 September the female woodpecker arrived with what appeared to be a different, somewhat less mature fledgling. It was less coordinated than the one seen previously, did wing-flutter, and gave the raspy begging call, which I hadn't heard recently from the one coming alone or on the same days as the male.

Although I did not see the nest, there is only one pair of Red-Bellied Woodpeckers in this area. It would appear that the Red-Bellied Woodpeckers had a nest which successfully produced at least one fledgling in June and a second producing two fledglings in August-September. The 7 September date for the second fledgling from this nest is just shy of the 12 September late fledging date reported in my previous article.

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