

and near Port Dover, on the Erie shore, and it is noted by every individual who has made out a list of the birds of Canada.

When I visited the celebrated Falls of Niagara, the second time, on the 10th of June, 1881, I noticed this bird in several of the gardens and vineries, near the margin of the rock-hewn gorge through which that river flows from the great cataract to the whirlpool, and on the morning after my arrival, when I awoke in the Paradise-like home of my friend Ralph V. Lyon, and lay listening to the murmuring sounds of the great waterfall, I was pleased to notice that among the other sounds of bird-life that came in through the window, on the dewy, flower-scented air, were those of my old and familiar feathered friend, the Catbird, and in the garden enclosures, on the Canadian side, among the many birds whose songs greet the tourist from many lands, as they approach the falls and bridges, are those of this species of the American Mocking Birds.

THE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.

Melanerpes Carolinus.

BY E. B. PECK, CLIFTON SPRINGS, N. Y.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is considered the rarest species of its family that ever reaches this part of the Empire state. Occasionally a solitary individual may be seen the fore part of April on his way to the northern breeding grounds. I have never seen more than one at a time.

While out collecting one day in October, I had the good fortune to see a specimen of this species on an old dead stub, his favorite resort, where with his sharp bill and spiked tongue he draws forth his daily allowance, consisting of grubs and small worms. I raise my gun, fire and soon have him in my hands.

A few days later I was again in the same piece of woods and saw another of the same species, flitting from tree to tree, uttering a peculiar note, which is a great deal coarser than that of the Red-headed Woodpecker. On this occasion the bird is very wild and it is only after a half-hour's hard work, creeping and running through the bushes, that I get a shot and secure the bird. It is a fine female, but not near as handsome as the male.

This Woodpecker has a bright red crown and hind neck; back barred with white and black; throat ashy gray; breast a very pale pink, shading into a pinkish-red or bright red. The sexes are similar, except the crown, which, in the female, is ashy gray. Length, 9 in.; wing, 4.85 in.; tail, 3.50 in.; culmen 1. The eggs are pure white .96x.71.