

and rest of the tail purplish brown, throat, sides of the head and foreneck, carmine purple, spotted with black varying to crimson orange and deep black, sides of the same color as the back, the rest of the underparts greyish white mixed with green. Like many others of our spring visitors this tiny little creature extends its migrations far beyond our borders, but numbers remain with us all through the summer, and until the first cold days of autumn warn them that it is time to depart for their winter quarters in "the sunny south."

There are few possessors of a garden or orchard, to whom the prolonged lisping note of the Cedar Bird, Cherry Bird, or Waxen Chatterer, as it is variously called, is not perfectly well known, and with not a few, the sound is the signal for an immediate "appeal to arms!" and many a hapless bird pays the penalty of "sudden death" for its fruit devouring propensities.

The Cedar Bird, (*Ampelis Cedrorum*), really comes to us in May, but its presence is scarcely noticed, until the orchards are in bloom, or the strawberries and cherries are beginning to ripen.

When the apple, the pear, and the cherry, however, are in blossom, flocks of these birds may be seen flying from tree to tree, and feeding occasionally on the opening buds, as they do later in the year on the fruit itself. Nevertheless if any of them are shot at this time, and their crops examined, they will constantly be found filled with various insects, of which they have assisted in ridding the trees, thus repaying the gardener for the tithe which they take of his fruit later in the year.

Moreover, the bird feeds its young for the first week exclusively on insects; although it must be admitted that after that, fruits of various kinds form a large part of their diet; indeed there is scarcely a fruit or berry, wild or in our gardens, which these birds will not feed upon, from the luscious blackheart cherry to the berries of the red cedar, their partiality for which has obtained for them one of the names by which they are generally known.

The plumage of the Cedar Bird is very soft and silky, and the colours are particularly harmonious and pleasing to the eye. The head, neck, and breast, are a rich yellowish brown or fawn colour fading into yellow on the abdomen, and yellowish white under the tail, back and wing coverts, greyish brown, passing into light bluish grey on the lower part of the back and tail coverts. A deep black line runs from the nostril over the eye to the back of the head, bordered above and below by a slender line of white. Quills, brownish black, the secondaries sometimes curiously tipped with small vermilion oblong appendages resembling red sealing-wax, which are also occasionally found on the tail feathers which are greyish at the base passing into brownish black, and terminated by a band of yellow.

Although we cannot reckon the Nightingale of the South,—the Mocking Bird,—with its unrivalled notes and wonderful imitation of other songsters, among our summer visitors, yet at

early dawn or in the late twilight of a fine June evening, when scarce another note is audible but the hum of the drowsy beetle, may be heard a sweet but singular song made up of short and blended imitations of the notes of other birds, given with great melody and variety of tone. Should the listener's curiosity lead him to attempt to discover the songster, as he approaches the spot from which these sweet sounds were proceeding, he will probably be saluted with a harsh grating cat-like mew and will be surprised to recognize in the performer the sober ashen-grey plumage of the Cat Bird, (*Mimus Carolinensis*).

Those who have only heard the harsh petulant cry of this bird, when suddenly disturbed, or when alarmed for the safety of its young, can have but little idea of its vocal powers, or how well it repays the trifling depredations which it commits on our cherries or raspberries, by the beauty and variety of its notes. Indeed, the good service which the bird renders by the destruction of thousands of larvæ and insects in our orchards and gardens, during the spring and summer, should protect it from the thoughtless attacks of boys, and the persecution which it is sometimes subjected to by older people.

The nest of the Cat Bird is composed, externally, of dried twigs and briars, mixed with withered leaves, weeds, and grass, and lined with black fibrous roots. The eggs are from four to six in number, of a greenish blue without spots.

The general colour of the plumage of the Cat Bird is blackish grey, the head and tail brownish black, the abdomen bluish grey, and the under tail coverts brownish red.

The House Wren, (*Troglodytes Aedon*), is a welcome and familiar visitor to all of us. It delights in being near and about the garden orchards, and habitations of man, and its merry warbling may be heard not unfrequently, even in the very centre of our towns, where in some crevice or hole in the wall of a house, or the eaves of an outbuilding, it will build its nest and rear its young. It is a sprightly, courageous little creature, shewing little fear of man, and making war sometimes on the Martin, the Bluebird, the Swallow, if they come in its way, and is unfrequently appropriating for its own nest the box or hole in the wall which they had previously chosen for the same purpose.

The Wren generally brings up two broods a season. It begins to build immediately after its arrival in the last week in May or the beginning of June.

The nest is formed first of a mass of crooked twigs interwoven together so as scarcely to admit an entrance to any bird larger than itself. Within this outer frame work, is placed the proper nest, of a hemispherical shape, formed of dried grasses and lined with feathers. The eggs are five or six in number, of a reddish color sprinkled all over with fine grains or dots of darker shade.

Early in June the Meadow Lark, or American Starling, (*Sturnella Magna*), makes its appearance, it is found scattered over the greater