

around the neck, and spots on the forehead are pure white.

THE BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.

The Black-billed Cuckoo is seen here during the warm summer months. It is a rare bird in our woods and perhaps is accounted rarer than it actually is from the difficulty of seeing it, for it moves noiselessly and stealthily through the thick foliage, concealing itself as it moves from branch to branch or from tree to tree. It rarely affords an opportunity for a view uninterrupted by the foliage of the trees in which it shelters itself from observation. An opportunity to get a clear and unobstructed view of the Cuckoo was



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given me last summer, the only one I have had of the living bird when I could identify the species with certainty.

This one alighted on a gate post, forming part of a fence extending through a small wood and it maintained, with scarcely a movement, the same position for some time. Near at hand and through a field glass, I was able to note its long tail with a few obscure white blotches on the outer feathers; its grayish olive back, quaker color as some would call it—its long, slightly curved black bill and the white of the nether parts. The length of the Cuckoo is about twelve inches, of which the tail constitutes one half.

The Black-billed Cuckoo is known as the "Rain crow"