

been describing, it generally frequents the thickest woods, is shy and retiring, and although its simple notes are very clear and harmonious they cannot be compared in richness and melody to those of the Ferrugineous Thrush. It makes a nest of coarse grass and dried leaves, mixed with mud and decayed wood, with a lining of fibrous roots and fine grass. It lays four or five eggs of a bright greenish blue. The plumage of the Wood Thrush is a bright cinnamon brown on the upper part of the body, inclining to rufous on the head, wings and tail olive color, breast white, thickly marked with pencil shaped brownish spots.

The Golden-winged Woodpecker, or Highholder, as it is commonly called, (*Colaptes Auratus*), is one of the handsomest of the numerous tribe of Canadian Picidae.

Its loud and curious note, sounding at a distance almost like a sort of prolonged goblin laughter, is always heard at this season, and if followed up to the spot from which it proceeds, several male birds will be found pursuing a female from tree to tree, and as they reach her, bobbing their heads, spreading their tails, moving sideways, backwards and forward, and performing a number of other curious antics. When once the fair one has chosen from among her gay suitors, the pair immediately proceed together to choose some decayed or hollow tree, wherein to execute a suitable hole for their nest. The female lays from four to six eggs, beautifully white and transparent.

This species alights on the ground more frequently than any other of the Woodpeckers, and seems especially to delight in attacking ant-hills, making great havoc among their inhabitants. It picks up beetles, caterpillars and other small insects, and does not disdain to vary its diet occasionally with a little fruit.

The plumage of the Golden-winged Woodpecker is very handsome. The upper part of the head and back of the neck light purplish grey, a transverse band of scarlet on the lower part of the back of the head. The upper part of the body, generally, light greenish brown spotted with black, the lower part of the back white, the tail coverts of the same color, tail brownish black, the shafts of the feathers orange, sides of the head and neck light brownish red tinged with grey. A black streak across each side of the throat, and a crescent shaped patch of the same on the breast. The rest of the breast reddish white, spotted with black, under surface of the wings and tail of a fine golden yellow.

Most persons who have travelled for any distance in summer through our Canadian backwoods, where the clearings are small and surrounded by the forest, must have remarked that however few in number may be the birds they meet with, the crimson headed Woodpecker, (*Melanerpes Erythrocephalus*), is sure to be seen running up the trunk of some girdled pine or alighting on the rail of a snake fence, rattling upon it with his bill, gradually moving round to the opposite side of the stake as he is approached, peeping now and then to see if he is

discovered, and then flying off to the next stake to repeat the same process. Although so common in the neighborhood of the woods, the Red-head is equally at home in the older settled parts of the country, and appreciates most thoroughly the evidences of increasing civilization in the shape of orchards and gardens. It may be doubted whether the Wax-wing or Cherry Bird as it is sometimes called, is a more arrant plunderer of that fruit than is the Redheaded Woodpecker, and like the Cherry Bird, too, it is an ardent admirer of ripe strawberries. Nevertheless, these birds, like all others of their species, fully compensate for the mischief they may occasionally do to our strawberries and cherries by the number of insects which they destroy, more especially the larvæ of those kinds most injurious to our fruit trees. The female of this Woodpecker lays from two to six eggs (which are pure white and translucent), in a hole in the trunk of some decayed tree. The plumage of both sexes is the same. Head and neck bright crimson, back wing coverts, primaries and tail feathers, black, with bluish reflections, rump and secondaries, white, breast and abdomen white, an irregular narrow transverse band of black at the junction of the red of the neck and the white of the breast.

Very different from its European namesake is the King Fisher of this continent, (*Ceryle Alcyon*). For once, the superiority in brilliancy of plumage is with the inhabitant of the Old World, whose lovely hues of blue and emerald, far outvie the sober livery of its American congener. The latter is, however, very much larger, and with its fine erect crest and plumage of blue and grey, barred with white, is after all a handsome bird.

Its curious rapid rattling note is familiar to every fisherman on our streams and inland waters. Mill-ponds, too, are a favorite resort of the King Fisher, the calmness of the water in such places permitting it to discover its prey with greater ease.

From its perch on the branch of some dead tree or stump, projecting over the pond, it flies off every now and then, poises itself for a few seconds over the water, and then dashing down, seizes a fish, and returning to its tree or stump swallows its prey at its leisure. This bird deposits its eggs, generally to the number of six, in a hole which it digs with its claws and feet in the soft earth or sand, on the banks of the stream or pond which it is in the habit of frequenting, and to which it often resorts for many years in succession.

About the middle of May, the singular note of the Rice Bunting or Bob O'Link, (*Dolichopus Orizivorus*), may be heard in our fields and meadows, generally near the margin of some quiet stream or reedy pond, where several pairs of them may often be met with throughout the whole summer.

Both the plumage and the song of this bird are very curious. The former is a mixture of black, white, and yellow, disposed in a sort of piebald fashion over the body, the upper part of the head, wings, tail, sides of the neck, and