

# Red-headed Woodpecker

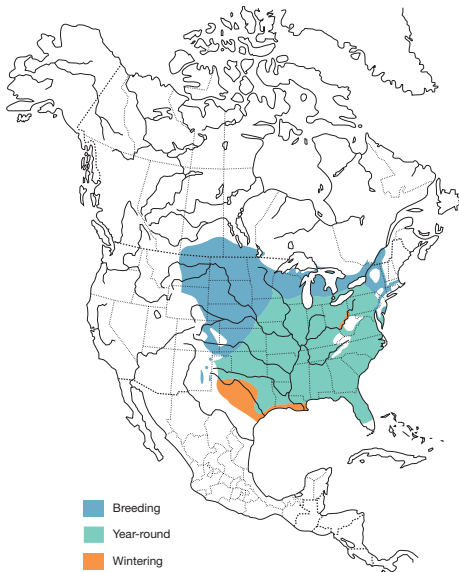
*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*



Photo: Gary Fairhead



Photo: Howard B. Eskin



## PROVINCIAL STATUS

Special Concern

## DESCRIPTION

- robin-sized woodpecker
- deep red head, neck, throat and upper breast
- large white patches on black wings; white belly

## VOCALIZATION

- loud *queer* or *queeah*

## PREFERRED HABITAT

- mature deciduous forest

## MIGRATION

Spring arrival: early May  
Fall departure: early October

## WINTERING GROUNDS

- central mid-west USA

## LOCAL POPULATION

- nests every few years in Renfrew County, otherwise a rare stray

## THREATS

- habitat destruction and alteration
- nest competition with European Starling
- highway traffic and vehicular collisions

## NICHE INFORMATION

- eats flying insects, ants, bird eggs, mice, corn, berries, fruit, seeds, nuts, tree grubs
- eaten by small hawks, falcons, rats, snakes, fox, squirrels, raccoons
- active in daytime
- lives in deciduous woodlots near clearings, pastures, scattered trees or old burn sites
- nests in cavities of live or dead trees, poles and posts

## WHAT WE CAN DO

- retain dead trees (snags) as nesting sites