

Territories, and is the commonest species up to the 56th parallel, north of which it yields in frequency to the three-toed species." This very well confirms the scarcity of the three-toed varieties and the abundance of the Hairy Woodpecker in this instance, but should scarcely account for the entire absence of the former when they occur at Edmonton in practically the same parallel, namely 53°, 35' north.

(11) CANADA JAYS (*Perisoreus canadensis*) were everywhere common, as I suppose they are in most northern woods. No sooner is camp made for a short time, than suddenly they appear to make friends, with plaintive mewings, or harsh *ca-ca-ca's*, and other peculiar notes. They are very inquisitive and social birds and afford real interesting study in their ways and habits.

I have spent many exhilarating moments watching these insatiable elfs, greedily stowing away food, gulping and choking and still trying with greater efforts to extend their capacity. What is impossible for them to eat at the time is very cunningly carried away and secreted in niches of nearby trees. They have no aversion to very questionable eatables, as a note from my journal of December 2nd indicates, and illustrates nicely this voracious tendency:

"Whisky-jacks carried away my last cake of Lifebuoy soap to-day, but fortunately I found it some distance away beneath the spruces, where they had conveyed it for greater secrecy. To my amusement they had eaten a generous sized hole from the centre. It would be interesting to know how they feel."

I subsequently learned that the soap and its influences detained my little friends from making their usual appearances for three consecutive days, but at the end of which time, after feasting the worst, they ambled in again as hale as ever.

This disposition of *canadensis* leads many woodsmen to indulge in harmless trickery upon the luckless birds and become convulsed with laughter at the ludicrous pranks they play: for instance, on the end of a string with mealy tid-bit attached.

(12) RAVENS (*Corvus corax principalis*) were observed only on two occasions, both during the month of October.

(13) PINE GROSBEAKS (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*) or *Pemontana*? (14) REDPOLLS (*Acanthis linaria*), and (15) SISKINS (*Spinus pinus*) were very common; the two former becoming much more so after November 10th.

(16) I saw only one flock of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS (*Loxia leucoptera*) which were feeding on a low spruce near the Hay river on November 5th.

(17) Near the same place on the afternoon of October 25th, I came upon a solitary individual of

the GRAY-CROWNED LEUCOSTICTE (*Leucosticte fephracitis*); it was the only one observed on the trip.

(18) A single TREE SPARROW (*Spizella monticola ochracea*) in company with a number of (19) JUNCOS (*Junco hyemalis* or *Junco oregonus shufeldti*) was noted on October 29th. They frequented low shrubbery, skirting a small brook that emptied into the Hay river.

(20) THE AMERICAN DIPPER (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*) was always to be seen along the open ripples. When a "Chinook" blew for a time from passes to the west, and flooded the ice and extended the open places it suited the little ouzel all the better. It always is a matter of interest to watch the little fellows diving deep into the cold spray of the stream and come up bobbing serenely, with a mouth full of green lichen or algae. They then convey it to the margin of the ice and select from it what suits them best. Their feeding places are marked on the ice by long narrow lines of green lichen grass, and little bits of gravel and silt.

What pleases me is the solemn air of importance they frequently possess, paddling around on the stream, head erect, bobbing over the ripples like a miniature duck and all the while in their comical erratic behaviour, twisting and turning suddenly this way and that as suits their fancy.

They frequently resort to the tree-tops when disturbed, displaying a surprising range of adaptability, when it is remembered that they are, comparatively, expert in the water and very active on land. They are truly very interesting little birds.

(21) In the darkest and loneliest coniferous forests of the greater foothills, I discovered the only place frequented by the RED-BREADED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*). Here they occurred in great numbers, the gloomy spruces seeming alive with them in certain places, and their thin nasal *ya-na*, *ya-na* murmured incessantly down the stillness of the forest. The mystery of the great conifers draped in clinging moss, with the calls of winter birds, casts quite an enchanting spell upon the otherwise breathless silence.

(22) BLACK-CAPPED (*Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*) and (23) HUDSONIAN CHICKADEES (*P. hudsonicus hudsonicus*) occurred in about equal numbers, and the occasion lent itself very agreeably to an extended acquaintance with *hudsonicus*, of which until this time I had seen but one living example. At Edmonton, comparatively but such a short distance east, I never saw them. Their notes are much coarser than those of the Red-cap or Long-tailed varieties and serve to quite accurately identify them at a distance.