

ing in open water at noon, and sweltering in the shade in the afternoon, attended by swarms of hardy and energetic mosquitoes.

It was surprising to note the rapidity with which the ice disappeared from the S.E. Bay. On the morning of the 24th it was firm enough to support a man with a sleigh-load of provisions, by noon only loose pieces were to be seen floating about, while in the evening every sign of ice had disappeared. This rapid melting of the ice is probably caused by a general rise of temperature of the water of the lake from the number of small streams flowing in, until a point is reached sufficiently above freezing to allow an expenditure of heat sufficient to melt the ice in all parts simultaneously, which has been previously rotted and honeycombed by the sun's rays.

The ice in the main body of the lake, owing to its greater volume of water, did not break up for a week later. From May 28th until June 27th our men were away for provisions stored during the winter at Lake Ashoupmouchouan. During their absence Mr. Macoun and I were employed with latitude observations, attending to weather readings, noting the arrivals of the birds, and collecting and noting the growth and development of the various plants, besides this we also made and planted a small garden, putting in the seed brought in for experiment. The following birds were noted throughout the winter about Mistassini: The chickadee, winter wren, pine grosbeak, white winged crossbill, common red-poll, snow bunting, black snow-bird, whiskey jack or Canadian jay, downy woodpecker, day owl, spruce partridge, partridge, and willow ptarmigan. On May 2nd a flock of Canadian geese passed north. On the third a number of golden-eyed ducks alighted in the open water of the narrows. A single pair of the greater yellow legs was seen, and a robin was heard on the 7th.

Then came quite a rush during the next 10 days.

On the 10th a white bellied swallow, the 11th ruby crowned kinglet, sheldrake and ring-billed gull; on the 14th the cow-bird, rusty grackle, belted kingfisher and loon; on the 15th the sea coot, and tree sparrow; on the 20th, the water-thrush, Swain's sparrow, white-throated sparrow and dusky duck. Then before June 1st hermit thrush, yellow bird, magnolia warbler, black-capped yellow warbler, song sparrow,