

their actions and their numerous notes there is a difference, though I confess it is not easily defined, but after some study their identification becomes unquestionable. In the northern bird the crown of black edged with white, so conspicuous in the congener, is replaced by a crown of rich brown edged with ashy; the throat also is brown, and the entire upper parts are more brown than ashy. Then the head does not appear so round, so much like a ball of down as the Black-cap's does, and the whole plumage partakes less of the fluffy character. The feathers appear firmer and set close to the body giving the bird, in a slight degree, a trimmer and more warbler-like look. And just as this additional stiffness in the contour feathers increases the dignity of the bird's appearance so does a slight stiffness in his movements add to the dignity of the bird's manners—if dignity is at all applicable to a bird who will persist in hanging to a limb with his head downwards and acting otherwise like a romp-loving school boy just after a circus has passed his way. For like all the race the Hudsonian lives principally on the eggs and larvae of insects, which it finds in the crevices of the bark of trees, and in hunting after these it performs a variety of amusing and wonderful gymnastic feats, though I have never seen one attempt to climb the trunk of a tree as do their next of kin, the creeper. But in all these movements this species exhibits just a little less of that rollicking style—that free abandon which is so pronounced in the antics of the Black-cap. And in the songs of the two you can trace a difference of a somewhat similar character; that of the Hudsonian lacks the extreme sweetness and smoothness of its cousins. The voice is harsher and the syllables are delivered more distinctly and more deliberately. But with all their efforts to affect boarding-school airs they must be rather genial fellows, for in the autumn and winter troops of six or eight are met together and generally in company with as many Black-caps and a small contingent of Kinglets. Tree Sparrows sometimes join the party, and but a few days ago I met such a troop “doing” the rounds of the trees in one of the public squares of this city with a pair of Downy Woodpeckers following close in their rear.

The Hudsonians chatter away as they hunt for their food from branch to branch and tree to tree, but they do not always sing their full song; more frequently the first note heard

from an advancing flock is something like *tsay-day-day*, the last syllables rather lengthened or a sharper, quicker *te-let-chee-chee*, and occasionally a guttural *tsé-pu-pu-pu*. They have numerous other minor notes with which they fill in the intervals, and one, which they use chiefly when resting under the cover of heavy evergreen foliage, and in such places as they select for sleep, is like the thin *tsip* of a Kinglet. While on their foraging expeditions, and indeed at all times, they exhibit no symptoms of shyness and appear quite indifferent to the presence of mankind, occasionally pausing to gaze at an inquisitive intruder with a comical “who-are-you-looking-at?” air, and probably following this by some performance around a limb, as if to show off their athletic capabilities.

In the spring these gay companions separate, each taking a mate, and starting boldly into housekeeping affairs. It has been stated that the Hudsonian Chickadee selects a deep forest for the site of its nest, and this may be the general rule, but of the four nests that I have seen neither were placed in any such seclusion. The one most carefully hid away was in a rather thick swamp, but was quite close to the out-kirt of a village and within a hundred yards of a much used highway; two of the others were in open pastures through which children played daily; while the fourth was in a telegraph post within a hundred yards or so of a railway station. During last season I was enabled to examine two nests of this species before they were removed from their original positions, one of these was found near Edmundston, not far from the Quebec border, by Mr. H. A. Purdie, of the Nuttall Club, Cambridge, and the other was discovered by Mr. James W. Banks within an hour's walk of this city. These two nests were so nearly alike both in position and construction that a description of one will apply equally well to either. They were placed in decayed and weather-beaten stumps (apparently spruce or fir), some three feet high and five inches in diameter, but unlike the Black-cap, who makes an entrance from the *side*, these builders had entered the stump from the top, beginning with a hole of about two inches diameter, which size was maintained for some six or eight inches, when it was increased gradually to about three inches, and this width was continued to the base of the excavation some twelve to fourteen inches from the top. At the bottom of this cavity, under the nest proper,