

fore is their color. On the origin of [this color there has been much speculation. Still it is a subject of question. The name by which this formation is now designated in Nova Scotian Geology is Triassic.

CANADIAN BIRDS.

By ERNEST E. T. SETON

Paper V.

FAMILY PARIDÆ—THE TITMICE.

Chicadee or Black-capped Titmouse—*Parus atricapillus*.

Hudsonian Chicadee.—*P. hudsonius*.

The Chicadee—*Parus atricapillus*. (*P.* Latin for titmouse: *atricapillus*=black-capped.) L. 5 1-3. Crown, nape and chin black; cheeks ashy white; above ashy-olive; below whitish, shaded with brown on the flanks; quills plain drab. Sexes alike. Nest in a wooden stump or a woodpecker's hole, lined with a belt of down, hair, or feathers. Egg, 5--8: .5×.5; delicate rosy white, with fine reddish specks, chiefly at the large end.

The Hudsonian Chicadee, *P. hudsonius*. L. 5. Rather smaller than the preceding, but with slightly longer tail. General color the same but browner. The back of the head also more of a brown hue. Nest and eggs, scarcely distinguishable from preceding. Found in the northern parts of Canada.

The Common Chicadee is one of our best known and most widely distributed birds. It is found nearly all over the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. It is abundant in Manitoba, Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. In Manitoba, strange though it may seem, this is our common species; the Hudsonian Chicadee I have never seen there.

Even in districts where the Chicadee is abundant, it is surprisingly unnoticeable in the summer. You may never see one for weeks together unless you take a ramble through some dense swamp of second-growth cedar, in which dead stumps and stubs are abundant. Here in early spring you will hear the two long-drawn clear notes, one just a true interval below the other. Or more often the querulous "tleeet" "tleeet," will be heard, followed by the peculiar "chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee" uttered by the spright-