

earlier part of the year. Newman gives September as its regular time of appearance. Yet many females of this species, at their regular time of appearance, are found destitute of *ora*, and the inevitable consequence is its rarity, and possibly its dying out, at least in England, unless (as intimated by Dr. Wallace) it is kept up by fresh specimens flying over from abroad. There is another cause of the rarity of some species, but its mode of operation is difficult to discover. Sometimes the introduction of an insect from another country, if it become abundant in its new *habitat*, will affect injuriously a native species, generally one allied to the species introduced. It is the general opinion of entomologists in the Province of Quebec, that since the acclimatization of *Pieris rapae*, the native *Pieris oleracea* has become scarce. The newcomer seems in some mysterious way to have usurped the place of the other species, and driven it away from places where formerly it was abundant. How this has been accomplished, however, we cannot tell.

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THE HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE.

(*Parus Hudsoniensis*.)

The true home of the Hudson Bay Tit, as this species is generally called, is in the more northern parts of the continent, in Labrador and the Hudson Bay region, with a range in those latitudes from the Atlantic to the Pacific; though at the east it is met with much further south than in the middle or western sections. It is a resident of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, breeding in both Provinces, where, though not abundant, it is far too common to be called rare, though it is more frequently met in winter than at other seasons. According to Mr. Everett Smith it is a common resident of the interior eastern and northern portion of Maine. Mr. Harry Merrill writes me that he has not known it to occur near Bangor, nor is it given in Mr. Nathan C. Brown's catalogue of Portland species, but there are records of a few being taken in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Mr. LeMoine in *Les Oiseaux du Canada* mentions it as a rare species (*plus rare en Canada*), and it certainly is along the entire southern section of the western Provinces, for Mr. Windle does not appear to have found it near Montreal, nor is the name in the Saunders-Morden list, nor in Mr. Mellvraith's old list of Hamilton

species. Professor Macoun has not placed it in his partial list of Belleville birds, nor did he find the bird in the Grand Valley of the Assiniboine. It is not given in the catalogue of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, though in the copy before me the name has been penned in by one of the members in place of *rufescens*, the latter being an obvious error as that species was discovered by Townsend on the Columbia River, and it has never been taken north or east of that region. But this is an error easily made unless the *habitat* of the two species is considered, their plumage being similar.

Of the eighteen species of the *Parus* found in North America the most widely distributed and the best known is the Black-capped (*P. atricapillus*), the type species of the family. This bird is found in all suitable localities along the southern borders of the Dominion (as well as much further south) from the Atlantic to Manitoba. In the latter Province and across the Plains to the Rockies it is replaced by *septentrionalis*, which Mr. Ridgway says "may be looked upon as simply a long-tailed western variety of the common species." Beyond the Rockies this is again replaced by still another variety, named by Baird *occidentalis*. Of the Hudson Bay Tit no variation in the western specimens has as yet been recorded. But it is in form and coloration, only that the species of the family exhibit any marked differences, for no matter what name they bear, nor where they make their homes, you will find them the same restless, merry, sociable pygmies with all the familiar habits of the Black-cap. Their songs also bear a strong general resemblance—if the jingling chant in which they carol their joy can be called a song—for whether the singer be he of the black tuft whose voice is heard on the banks of the Rio Grande; or *Carolinensis*, who helps to swell the horns which comes up from "the Land o' Dixie;" or our own brown-capped hero, whose tiny throistle flings a welcome to the sun as its light breaks upon the hills of the far north, or be he whatever member of this family he may, the theme of his song is much the same jaunty *chee-dee-dee-dee* as rings through our Canadian woods the whole year long. The song of the Black-capped and the Hudsonian are especially similar, and their general appearance and their manners in the field, particularly the latter, are so alike as to make their exact identification rather difficult; yet even in