

NOTES ON WINTER BIRDS IN MONTCALM COUNTY,
QUEBEC.

By L. McI. TERRILL.

During each December of the past two winters I have spent a fortnight camping north of Lac Tremblante, Montcalm County, Que. The weather from Dec. 8th-20th, 1906, was excessively cold, with the exception of two or three days, the thermometer dropping as low as 35° below zero, though the average was about 12° below. This was probably the cause of the appearance of large packs of wolves from the north, which in turn drove the deer closer to civilization.

This year, during the same period, we had rain or snow for several days (so mild in fact that at least one bear, one chipmunk and two specimens of a species of hibernating moth, had been induced to leave their winter quarters). The wolves had not put in an appearance, and the deer were more scattered. In 1906 the ice on Lac Tremblante was a foot or more in thickness on Dec. 9th, whilst this year it had not taken on the day we left, Dec. 21st.

Of the birds observed the woodpeckers outnumbered all others, five species being noticed; namely, downy, hairy, Arctic three-toed, American three-toed, and pileated woodpeckers. I have named them in order of abundance, only a few specimens of the pileated being observed each year. I did not record the American three-toed woodpecker in 1906, but probably overlooked it.

When drilling for larvae the pileated woodpecker can be heard at a much greater distance than any of the others. Then in turn the three-toed woodpecker makes more noise than the hairy and downy. If one had a fine perception of sound he might in time almost name the different species by the sound made in drilling.

The American crossbill and pine grosbeak were noticed daily, and both were feeding principally on the seeds of coniferous trees. I heard a grosbeak singing on three or four occasions. Pine siskins were noted abundantly, and less commonly the redpoll, (*A. linaria*) brown creeper, white and red-breasted nuthatch, whilst the ever present black-capped chickadee was everywhere. The difference in the abundance of the jays was notable. I have no record for the blue jay in 1906, though there may have been a few, while in 1907 they were numerous. Compare this with an abundance of Canada jays in 1906, and a scarcity in 1907 almost corresponding to that of the blue jay