

## WINTER BIRDS OF THE COBALT REGION.

March 14th to 26th of this year the writer spent in New Ontario in the towns along the New Ontario and Temiskaming Railway. Although I did not go there for the purpose that visitors to this region usually go there for, yet it was no vacation tour, but on the contrary, a very busy time for me. Every free moment, however, I spent in looking at the things in nature; especially was I curious to see what birds could be met with here at this time. Whenever I could, I went into the fringe of the woods, mostly dense stands of small black spruce, tamarack and quaking aspen. The tamarack had also here as elsewhere been all killed by the insect that did so much damage a few years before, but some new growth was also seen.

The birds here are few and far between in winter. But since faunal lists from this region are rare, I submit the following list. Unless otherwise noted, they are winter birds, or permanent residents of the region, for, although migration is in progress further south, it was practically the middle of winter here. On March 16th the temperature at Englehart was 6° in day time, but the wind, from north, was certainly much below zero, as it must have been also during the night. The lengthening days were the only token of approaching spring, there was no thawing of snow and ice as yet. The following birds were seen:—

Raven (*Corvus corax principalis*), one, March 16th at Englehart. Reported as rather common at Larder Lake.

Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), 5-6 in some pines, exposed to the icy blasts, at Englehart, as lively and satisfied as usual; one singing their sweet: *Peabody*. Seen also in two to three other places; 10-15 on way from Brentha to Heaslip.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*), one near Heaslip.

Snowflake (*Passerius nivalis*), flock of about 25 on Lake Temiskaming at Haileybury.

English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), abundant at Cobalt, less so at Haileybury. None seen at Englehart and northward.

Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), 4-5 seen at Brentha P. O.

I had a very amusing experience with one of these birds, showing their tameness or fearlessness, to which they are probably driven by hunger. A Swiss farmer at Brentha told me, that he had a tame "meatbird" at his place, which would, when called, *Hobie*, fly on his hand and eat out of it. I told him I would come the next morning and