

colour. The whole under surface is white ; the sides of the neck and breast tinged with reddish-brown ; wing coverts on both sides and six outer secondaries white ; primary coverts white tipped with brownish-black ; primaries brownish-black, slightly margined and tipped with white and having a broad band of the same extending over the base, and enlarging inwards ; inner secondaries brownish-black, margined with pale reddish ; three outer tail feathers on each side white, excepting towards the end, where they are brownish-black, of which colour are the other feathers, all being tipped and edged with whitish ; upper tail coverts being brownish-black with a large white tip.

Rivalling the Snow Bird in hardiness and insensibility to the severest cold, but seen with us only at long and rare intervals, we have that curious bird, the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus Canadensis*) as an occasional winter visitor. Although common enough at this season in many parts of north-eastern Canada, it seldom extends its migrations to our Western Peninsula, except when driven here by unusually cold and stormy weather, and a consequent scarcity of food in more northern latitudes.

They make their appearance sometimes in twos and threes, and sometimes in flocks of fifteen or twenty, coming about yards and houses in search of crumbs or scraps of meat when pressed by hunger ; at other times roving through the woods, feeding upon seeds and berries, and the larvæ of insects, or frequenting the country roads, picking up the scattered grain from among the droppings.

They are very easily approached, showing but little fear of man ; indeed, they are said to be often very troublesome to the lumbermen and hunters, in those districts which they frequent, entering the camp of the former and helping themselves to anything in the shape of provisions which may be lying about, and stealing the bait out of the traps of the hunters.

The plumage of this bird is well calculated to enable it to resist the severest cold, the feathers on the body being particularly long, soft, and blended. The general tint of the upper parts is a dull, leaden grey ; the back of the neck black ; forehead and feathers covering the nostrils, brownish-white ; a sort of collar passing round

the lower part of the neck of a dirty white ; the margins of the quills and coverts dull white, as are those of the tail feathers, which are broadly tipped with the same.

In the fur countries, where these birds abound, they are said to build their nests and rear their young before the snow is off the ground. The nest is generally built in a fir tree, of sticks and grass. The eggs are blue, and the young brood, which are quite black, take flight by the middle of May.

That handsome bird, the Pine Grosbeak, (*Pinicola Canadensis*) although not so rare a visitor as the Canada Jay, is only seen occasionally in this neighbourhood. In some winters they have been very numerous in many parts of Western Canada, and then for several years in succession scarcely a solitary specimen has been seen. They make their appearance in flocks of from ten to fifteen or twenty, coming about the gardens and orchards, and feeding upon the tender buds of the cherry and the apple.

To the seeds of the latter fruit they are particularly partial, and withered apples left on the trees or lying on the ground are sure to be attacked by them in search of their favourite food.

Having observed one winter that a party of these birds paid frequent visits to some lilac trees growing close to the verandah of my house, apparently for the sake of the seeds which were still hanging upon the trees, and having before remarked their partiality for apple seeds, I had a quantity of broken pieces of apple scattered about the verandah. The next visit the birds paid the lilacs were speedily deserted, and they were soon busily employed, not only in extracting the seeds from the apple cores, but in feeding upon the fruit itself. I continued to have fresh supplies provided from day to day, and by degrees the numbers of my visitors increased, until there were sometimes as many as twelve or fourteen feeding together at the same time, and they ultimately became so tame as to allow any of the family to watch them from the windows, although hardly two feet from them. Notwithstanding their daily supply of apples, however, the lilacs did not escape, for, not content with the seeds, they stripped the trees so effectually of their flower buds, that the following summer