

THE CANADA JAY.

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(By WM. H. MOORE. Scotch Lake, N.B.)

The Canada jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) is one of our Canadian birds which is blessed with several local names. Some of these names are "camp-robber," "whiskey-jack," "moose-bird," and "gorbie," but speak of this bird as Canada jay to most of his human acquaintances and they know not what bird is meant.

The Canada jay is one of our most hardy birds. So hardy in fact, that not only do the adults withstand our severe winters, but they even build their nests and bring forth the young while snow still covers the ground. The nest is a compact affair, built of twigs, fine shreds of bark, and hair, and if wool is obtainable it is added.

The plumage of the young, is much darker than that of the adults, being sooty black throughout with a slight tip of white on tail feathers. The white of the head and neck is lacking until August or September, when they have assumed the same colored dress as the older birds, being greyish with white cheeks, throat and collar, forehead, and tip of the tail. When on the wing they seem to float on the air, rather than to be working vigorously with the wings as some birds do. A cause of prejudice against the Canada jay is the manner in which at times they obtain their food. They are much disliked by trappers and hunters, as they often take the bait from traps set for fur bearing animals, and also by feeding upon carcases of game hung up by hunters. Many hunters have lost shots at game on account of this bird giving a cry of alarm when it sees a man, and as all of the wild neighbors partially understand the calls and actions of their friends, all know to be on the *qui vive* when an alarm call is given. Campers also dislike its way of taking any bit of food that it can carry away, yet some campers delight in feeding the birds just to see them eat, and carry away what they cannot eat. Anything from a small bone, bread-crust, or piece of soap is acceptable to their needs; whatever it may be, it is picked up in the bill, and while on the wing it is changed to a foot, and changed as easily