

But few Tree Sparrows winter here, although they are abundant in November. Black Snowbirds are almost equally rare, and it is only now and then that Robin favors us with his presence during the dreary months. One or two will sometimes stay where the berries of the mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*) are plenty.

Our only permanent residents really abundant in the winter months are the little Black capped and Hudsonian Chickadees. We have rarely any Shrikes, and the Chickadees' mode of nesting secures them against the large birds of prey, and, being the only insectivorous tribes of consequence during winter, they have an ample supply of food, so that they enjoy a regular paradise here among the groves of gray lichened firs. Everywhere you turn, even in the most severe weather, a merry *chick, pee dee* greets you, and a little black cap bobs from among the snow-laden boughs.

The Hudsonian Chickadee is less pert and obtrusive than its black-capped friend. Like a coy maiden in sober brown it keeps to the retirement of the thickets, attracting little attention with its soft, whispered notes. I think both species, though plenty at all times, are less abundant in midwinter.

The Gold-crested Kinglet, and the Red-bellied and White bellied Nuthatches are permanent residents, though by no means abundant. Besides the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and a rare Black-backed Woodpecker, the Brown Creeper may sometimes be seen in midwinter. Blue Jays are numerous, but Canadian Jays uncommon. During severe winters Crows get very scarce, yet a few will brave the most Arctic temperature while grain stacks are to be pilfered from.

Goshawks are resident here and the terror of the desolate winter forest. Often we see the blood-stained snow and the scattered feathers of a Jay, or the fur of a hare, where this marauder has had his meal.

Among Owls, the Barred and Horned Owls are the most common. The Snowy Owl visits us in winter; and the curious bell-like tones of the little Acadian Owl form the first voice of spring in the wintry woodlands.

After the ice closes round the Island in January we see but few water fowl. Yet, in mild winters, occasional Golden eyes, Oldsquaws, Mergansers, or Eider Ducks, may be observed. Herring and Black-backed Gulls come in during softer spells and survey the ice-locked bosoms of the bar-