

The Hudsonian Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus* subsp.?) in North-eastern Pennsylvania in June.—In company with Richard C. Harlow, Richard F. Miller and Albert D. McGrew, I spent three weeks in the field in the spring of 1917 about La Anna, Pike County, Pa., and June 3, while searching a large sphagnum bog for a nest of the elusive Northern Water-Thrush, two brown capped chickadees were seen. I had gotten a little behind the others and was hurrying to catch up to them when the unmistakable nasal "chick-a-dee-dee" of one of these birds was heard. It had happened that earlier in the spring I had seen a single individual (Auk, 1917, p. 344) and had become familiar with its notes so I recognized it at once. The birds, two of them, were feeding in several small tamaracks and with characteristic lack of timidity allowed a close approach where their identity was established beyond doubt. They showed a preference for a certain part of the bog that we had been floundering through but although several suspicious looking holes were found, we could detect no signs of their nesting. I returned to this spot the next day, and had no difficulty in finding the birds again. This time I spent two hours trailing them but with no success other than leaving with the conviction that they were mated and if not as yet nesting here, would undoubtedly do so. Not satisfied, however, all of us returned the following day and made another attempt but with no more luck though we again found them at the same place. The necessity of leaving soon after for another part of the state made further study of the birds impossible. From what we had seen, however, there seemed little doubt but that the birds intended to breed in this tamarack swamp. The situation in which they were found was typical of that much farther north, being indeed a northern muskeg in every sense of the word, with lichen covered tamarack, deep beds of sphagnum moss and scattered pools.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *State College, Pa.*

Hudsonian Chickadee on the Pocono Mountain, Pa.—On the morning of June 17, 1917, at Pocono Lake, Pa., I found a pair of brown-headed chickadees, probably the Labrador (*Penthestes h. nigricans*). The location was at the edge of a sphagnum swamp amid a dense grove of dwarf spruces. When discovered the birds evidenced considerable excitement and came and scolded within three feet of me. Their actions and movements were more deliberate and confiding than those of either the Black-capped or Carolina species. I noticed one of them examining a small hole in a decayed stub which led me to believe it to be a nesting site. This was not the case however, although the conditions seemed favorable, as the cavity contained nothing but a few chips of bark. The birds remained in the locality during all the time that I was there.

On the following morning I found the birds again in the same location but was unable to study them subsequent to this as I made my departure from the district that afternoon.

Mentioning my discovery to Mr. John D. Carter, who had arranged to visit the country a week later, he made a further search for the birds but was able to find but one of them.

The outcome of these observations did not reveal that the birds had nested or were intending to nest in the locality, but the occurrence so far south is interesting.— J. FLETCHER STREET, *Beverly*, N. J.

Hudsonian Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus subsp.?*) at Princeton, N. J.— There were four of these birds upon my place from November 18 until March 31 of last year, 1916–1917, during which period I saw one or more of them almost daily feeding upon the suet near my window.

I thought, at the time, that they were the Acadian variety, with which I am familiar in northern Maine, although I noticed that they seemed darker than any specimens which I had previously observed.

I was unaware at the time of Dr. Townsend's Labrador subspecies, to which they may have belonged.

I have neither seen, nor heard of, any in the neighborhood this year.— HENRY LANE ENO, *Princeton*, N. J.

A Robin which Migrated Tailless.— In the spring of 1914 a tailless male Robin arrived in the Boston Public Garden, a plump, brightly plumaged bird, and remained there as one of a breeding pair. During the weeks succeeding his arrival there was no perceptible development of a tail. On April 13, 1915, there again arrived a tailless male Robin on a morning when several females joined the company of males already present. This tailless male adopted the same limited area of the Garden as did the tailless bird of the preceding year. So the almost unavoidable conclusion was that it was the same bird, and that it was not a mere coincidence. On April 19, 1916, again a tailless male Robin arrived and again adopted the same small area of the Garden as his possession, a plump and brightly plumaged bird as before. The conclusion was then confirmed beyond reasonable doubt that it was indeed the same Robin back for the third season without a tail. This being so, the fact was that this Robin had made his migratory flights for three successive years without the aid of any tail as a rudder in flight. Neither season did any tail develop. Apparently the bird had lost the fleshy tip from which tail feathers could be developed. There was no change in its appearance, season by season. In the season of 1914 the first Robins came to the Garden on March 25 and during the next few days were joined by others. In 1915 the first Robin arrived on March 19 followed by others within a week. In 1916 the first two Robins came to the Garden on March 25, and on April 1 a dozen resident males were present. Thus it is perceived that the tailless Robin was a rather later arriving bird each season. Twenty resident Robins were already present in the Garden when he came north in 1915 and 1916. So, perhaps, this tailless Robin made his migratory flights less speedily than did others. But this supposition would seem to be not very strongly based for the reason that Robins are arriving usually throughout the month of April, and the tailless bird was not really behind time. The only conclusion to be drawn, therefore, would seem to be that the bird had experienced little or no disadvantage in flight due to not possessing a



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