

WINTER BIRDS OF THUNDER BAY DISTRICT

- GOLDEN EAGLE. Winter visitor only.
- COSSACK. Winter visitor but may occasionally breed.
3 1/2 ft. wing spread.
- SNOWY OWL. Winter visitor only. 4 - - 5 ft. wing spread.
- GREAT HORNED OWL. Permanent resident. 4 1/2 ft. wing spread.
- GREAT GRAY OWL. Winter visitor but may occasionally breed.
4 ft. - 5 ft. wing spread.
- RICHARDSON'S OWL. Winter visitor only. 8 - 12 in. long.
- SAW-WHET OWL. Permanent resident but numbers increased during
winter. 7 - 8 in. long.
- SHARP-TAILED GROUSE. Permanent resident.
- SCOTTED GROUSE. Permanent resident.
- PUCCINLOTT'S GROUSE. Permanent resident.
- HELMED WOODPECKER. Permanent resident. 16 - 19 in. long.
- ARCTIC THREE TOED-WOODPECKER. Permanent resident.
- WHITE WOODPECKER. Permanent resident. 10 in. long.
- DOWNY WOODPECKER. Permanent resident. 6 in. long.
- BLUE JAY. Permanent resident in small numbers.
- CANADA JAY. Permanent resident.
- SMALL GROSBEAK. Winter visitor only.
- WINTER GROSBEAK. Winter visitor, occasionally remaining to breed.
- WHITE-WINGED GROSSEBILL. Permanent resident.
- RED CROSS BILL. Permanent resident.
- WHITE SKIN. Winter visitor; many occasionally remain to breed.
- RED POLL. Winter visitor only.
- BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE. Permanent resident.
- PARSONS CHICKADEE. Winter visitor; may occasionally remain to breed.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Permanent resident.
- WINTER WAXING. Winter visitor only.

Includes only those species which are permanent residents or regular winter visitors. Several other species may occur casually, but such appearances are rare and very irregular.

GOLDEN EAGLE. To be confused only with the immature Bald Eagle which may occasionally be found in winter and which does not attain the white head and tail until the third year. Can always be distinguished by the legs, which in the Golden Eagle are feathered to the toes, but in the Bald Eagle are feathered only half way down the shank of the leg.

GOSHAWK. Large hawk with wing spread of about 3½ ft. Upper parts slaty blue with white markings on sides and back of head. Under parts white, thickly covered with transverse, wavy blue lines.

SNOWY OWL. This large, almost white owl needs no description, has a wing spread of 4½ to 5½ ft.

GREAT HORNED OWL. Large brown owl with conspicuous ear tufts, wing spread 4½ to 4¾ ft. General colouration a pale buffy brown, patterned with markings of a darker shade, breast lightly barred with black, throat white. Under feathers of a pale yellowish white. Considerable variation in the shade of the plumage of individuals will be found.

THE GREAT GREY OWL. Large, very dark owl with no ear tufts. General colouration a dark sooty grey and greyish white. While it has a wing spread of from 4 to 5 ft. the body is small and light in weight.

RICHARDSON'S OWL. Small owl about 8 to 11 inches long, has no ear tufts. General colouration brown. To be confused only with the next named Saw-whet but is slightly larger and the forehead and crown are spotted with white.

SAW-WHET. Similar to the Richardson's owl but slightly smaller, being only 7 to 8 inches long, the forehead and the crown being streaked instead of spotted with white.

SNOW-TAILED GROUSE. This bird, incorrectly called the Prairie Chicken, should be well known. It is larger and lighter in colour than the common Ruffed Grouse, the general colour of the upper parts are brown, the breast whitish with V shaped markings of dark brown. The feet and legs being feathered to the toes.

RUFFED GROUSE. Incorrectly called Partridge, this bird is too well known to need description. In this species however it should be noted that the legs are feathered but not the feet or toes.

SPRUCE GROUSE. The male of this species has the upper parts a dark sooty grey, the sides and flanks are white barred with black, the breast and belly black, and a conspicuous red patch over the eye. The female lacks the distinctive black under parts, the feathers having broad white tips. The back has more rufous colouration than the male. This species is also feathered to the toes.

PINNACLED WOODPECKER. The largest of our woodpeckers, being from 16 to 19 inches long, popularly but wrongly called the woodcock, is easily identified by its size. The general colouration is black, with a white stripe from the base of the bill, along the sides of the neck and flanks, the most conspicuous mark is the bright red, upright crest.

ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. About 9 inches long, the plumage of both sexes are the same with the exception that the male has a conspicuous yellow patch on the crown. The back is black without markings, the under parts pure white, the sides white barred with black, wings black.

AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. About one inch smaller than the Arctic Three-toed, the plumage however being identical with the exception that the back in this species is barred with white.

HAIRY WOODPECKER. About 10 inches long, plumage of both sexes the same with the exception that the male has a red patch on the nape of his neck. The back is black with a broad white stripe down the centre, the wings are black, barred with white, the whole underparts, pure white.

DOWNY WOODPECKER. With the exception that the length of this species is only about 6 inches long, little better than half the size of the Hairy, the plumage is almost identical and the same description applies.

BLUE JAY. This bird is too well known to need any description, while the great majority of them go South to Winter, a certain number remain throughout the year in sheltered localities.

CANADA JAY. This bird popularly known as the Whisky Jack should also be well known. Slightly smaller than the Blue Jay, the feathers always appear to be very fluffy, the upper parts a smoky grey, darker on the back of the head, the forehead, throat and upper part of the breast, whitish.

PINE GROSBEAK. About 9 to 10 inches long. The male had the whole of the head and breast a rosy red, the wings and tail dark brown, the wings with two white bars. The female has a grey plumage with no red, rusty patches on the head and at the base of the tail, wings and tail similar to the male.

EVENING GROSBEAK. About the same size as the previous species, the male has a very conspicuous plumage of yellow on the back and breast, darker at the head, wings and tail black with large white wing patches. The female is similar but the colours very much subdued, the upper parts being of a dull greenish yellow, the white wing patch being not nearly so conspicuous.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. Has crossed mandibles, from which it takes its name as does the next species. It is about six inches long; the male has the head, back and breast a rosy red, wings and tail black with two conspicuous white wing bars, the female has a general colouration of olive green, yellow at the base of the tail, wings similar to the male.

RED CROSSBILL. About the same size as the white-winged Crossbill and the male has the same general colouration with the exception that the wings are dark brown and it has no wing bars. The female is similar to the female of the previous species but can always be distinguished by the absence of the white wing bars.

PINE SISKIN. A small bird about the same size as an English sparrow. General colour a greyish brown, streaked with dark brown, has a yellow patch at the base of the tail and on the wing.

REDFOLL. About the same size as the last, general colouration greyish brown, streaked with darker brown, crown of head a bright crimson.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. This is the common chickadee that should be well known to all. A little feebly and fluffy bird about five inches long with a jet black head and chin and throat, sides of neck white, the general colouration of the body being olive grey, tail and wings blackish grey.

HULONIAN CHICKADEE. Same size as the last species, can always be distinguished by the colour of the head and back of the neck which is brown instead of black.

WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH. About the same size as the Chickadee but a heavier built bird. Usually seen climbing a tree, woodpecker-fashion, but will frequently come down the tree head first, which a Woodpecker never does. The bill is long, the head and back of neck, black, rest of upper parts including tail, slate blue. Chin, sides of neck and breast pure white.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING. Practically identical in plumage but slightly larger than the Cedar Waxwing which is common in the summer. General colouration a soft brown, shading into greyish on the underparts except the underparts of the tail which are a bright rufous. Chin and line through the eyes black, head with a long pointed crest. Large wing feathers and tip of tail tipped with yellow, small wing feathers tipped with red, wax-like spots from which the bird gets its name. Length seven and a half to eight and a half inches.

These notes are not intended to be a correct detailed description of the birds mentioned but a general outline of the principal points necessary for identification. As some of them will also be seen during the Summer months, these may be noted from the appended list.