

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE  
FROM THE LABRADOR PENINSULA.

BY CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M.D.

***Penthestes hudsonicus nigricans*, subsp. nov.**

*Subsp. Char.*—Midway in size between *Penthestes hudsonicus hudsonicus* and *P. hudsonicus littoralis*, bill as short as that of *littoralis* and as thick as *hudsonicus*. Darker than either on back and sides and much less brown.

*Type.*—No. 1420, coll. C. W. T. ♂ ad. Shekatika, head of inlet Saguenay County, Quebec, Canadian Labrador, July 23, 1915; collected by C. W. Townsend.<sup>1</sup>

*Range.*—So far as known, forested region of Labrador Peninsula.

*Description of adult.* Sexes alike. Crown, nape and back mouse-gray slightly tinged with hair brown; wings and tail dull slate-color; throat black, ear coverts, sides of neck, breast and belly white; sides brownish drab.

*Measurements* ♂ (type) wing 66, tail 64, tarsus 15, bill, culmen, 8.5, depth at base 4.5.

♀ wing 62, tail 62, tarsus 14, bill, culmen, 8, depth at base 5.

*Remarks.* The short, stout bill and dark back almost devoid of brown tint as well as the absence of a strong brown tint on the sides make this a well marked subspecies. In its dark sooty tendency it resembles other birds of the forested regions of the Labrador Peninsula such as the Labrador Horned Owl and the Labrador Jay. This region abounds in water in the bogs, lakes and rivers and its climate in summer is humid. A number of other birds of this region appear to have a tendency to darkness in plumage, *e. g.* Red-tailed Hawk, Flicker, Night Hawk and Water-Thrush.

It is probable that the Hudsonian Chickadees of the treeless or scrub Arctic and Subarctic area in Ungava Labrador and Newfoundland Labrador are *P. hudsonicus hudsonicus*. Specimens from Lance au Loup taken in May belong to this latter form. The Ungava form described by Rhoads in 1893 (Auk, X, 1893, p. 328) has the brown coloration of *hudsonicus*. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Outram Bangs for his assistance in preparing this note.

<sup>1</sup> I have since given the type specimen to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, Mass., and it now bears the number 69431.



Townsend, Charles Wendell. 1916. "A New Subspecies of Hudsonian Chickadee from the Labrador Peninsula." *The Auk* 33, 74–74.

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