

Pinicola enucleator

Notes made at and near Cambridge
on the great winter flight of 1892-93.

Paricola nucleator.

1892 Mass.

Nov. & Dec Middlesex Co. - Pine Grosbeaks have appeared in large numbers Heavy flight
for the first time in three years. The earliest date of which I Earliest date
have thus far learned was Nov. 21st when I heard a bird calling of appearance.
in the pines near the Minute Man at Concord. Soon after this Fayon
met with a flock among pitch pines in the Sperrick Sand-hills
and Hoffmann, Torrey & others reported birds at Belmont, Arlington, Area of
Melbury Hills, Fitchburg (Boangs) & elsewhere (see summaries of meetings, distribution
of Nuttall Club, Dec. 5 & 19th). About half of the flocks have contained
one or two red birds each and Torrey had the unusual experience of
seeing five in company with big gray birds. The only other irregular Five red
winter visitors thus far reported are Acadian Owls, of which there males in
has been a small flight, Barred Owls (a rather heavy flight) and one flock
~~a single Lesser Red-poll (seen by Hoffmann at Arlington).~~

On Dec. 15 I heard Pine Grosbeaks calling ~~twice~~ in two different
places at Concord and at a third ("the Holt") found two birds
feeding on the seeds of a white ash on the river bank. One was a gray Unusually
bird the other decidedly the highest-colored & that I have ever met five males
with the rose red of the head, breast etc. being everywhere rich, deep &
pure instead of, as is so often the case, pale & thin in quality. Feeding on
Both birds were very tame. They picked & ate the seeds with peculiar seeds of ash trees
slowness & deliberation reaching forward & down for them until they nearly
stood on their heads & rolling each seed between the mandibles to detach
the wings which floated slowly down to the water beneath. The ♀ drank once
at the river's edge. Both birds occasionally gave the piping call a low,
rolling chirrup. The former heard at a distance closely resembles the distant
scream of a Blue Jay. Fayon tells me he has mistaken one for the other
as I did once to-day.

Dec. 21 Cambridge. - 27 Grosbeaks, the first I have seen here, visited the red cedar in my garden
behind my house at 9 o'clock this morning & spent 1/2 hour feeding on the eating cedar
abundant berries. Only one red bird among them, a very good one but for berries.
inferior to the fine sample seen at Concord on the 15th.

1892 Mass.

Dec. 26 Cambridge - I have watched one cedar tree closely without seeing any more Grosbeaks than but I heard one calling in my hindens this morning & a little later others in a large white ash on Elmwood Avenue.

" 25 Winchester. - Flock of about 15 including 4-5 red males seen by Spelman.

" 28 Concord - Heard calling in the pines on Ball's Hill.

1893.

Jan'y 9 Cambridge - A very large number congregated, at 9 a.m., in the back part of the cultivated grounds next the school house on Lowell Street. It was impossible to count them with absolute accuracy for they were scattered about in some spruces and continually flying backwards & forwards from tree to tree but as they left the places in straggling order I checked off forty-five and probably did not get them all. From the manner in which they departed ten or a dozen at a time I concluded that several flocks had come together to form this unusual assemblage but all went off in the same direction. The chief attraction here was evidently a large mountain ash fairly laden with crowded cyms of orange berries on which a dozen or more birds were constantly feeding, but most of them were in the spruces where they kept hopping about busily picking among the ends of the twigs but not molesting the few old & ragged cones (the last crop of spruce cones was ripe in the winter of 1890-91). I followed these Grosbeaks to Hubbard Park where they were again chiefly in spruces apparently getting some kind of food but they were also eating the seeds of the white ash. Among them all I did not see a single red bird. English Sparrows were with them in both places. The Grosbeaks were very tame but subject to sudden panics, when all would start at once dashing first

*Parus crinitator.*1893. Mass.Jan'y 9
(No 2)

Cambridge. - down nearly to the ground then up and off through the trees as if a Hawk had appeared over them. Once this was ^{evidently} caused by the barking of a small dog. On two other occasions there was no obvious cause. On all three occasions they flew only a short distance, alighted in small bunches in the tops of naked trees and after calling to one another for a minute or so quickly came together again & returned to their favorite Spruce or ash trees resumed feeding. They frequently alighted on the ridge poles of houses or barns and sat packed in rows close together. I saw one eating snow on the north side of a way.

At the Metall Club meeting this evening much testimony was produced to show that Pine Grosbeaks have increased very greatly in numbers during the past week. Mr. Hoffman said that at Abington he and Mr. Faxon saw fully 150 in three flocks, yesterday. A day or two before, ^{on the} 7th, if I remember rightly, Mr. Faxon came across a flock containing fully 100 birds. They were on the ground in the middle of a road and were so tame that he approached to within two or three feet of them almost succeeding in putting his hat over one.

Only one or two red birds were seen in each of these flocks.

Connecticut.

Portland, Mr. Jos. H. Sage writes under date Jan. 9, 1893: In Conn.

"Pine Grosbeaks are here - a few red ones. I never saw such a year for Hawk & Owls"

(The Boston taxidermists tell me there has been no flight of any species of Owl, except the Barred, in the eastern part of Mass. this winter)

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1893 Mass.

- July 10 Cambridge. About 12.5 on the Hayes place where they spent the entire day. Mr. Alex. Hayes told me that they first appeared there on the morning of the 8th. During this & the following day they devoted themselves to some white ash trees immediately about the house, ~~then they~~ ^{then} ~~and~~ completely stripped ^{them} of their fruit by the afternoon of the 9th when a few ^{birds} visited a large ^(also on ash) tree, loaded with fruit which stands on the street near the foot of the avenue. They appear suddenly in great numbers & attack the fruit of the white ash trees.
- At about 8.30 a.m. on the 10th I found them assembling from all sides in this last ^{mentioned} tree. During the hour which I spent watching them they ate or shook off fully half the buds on this tree. According to some men who were at work near by they had stripped the tree clean by 3 P.M. after which they attacked the fallen buds finishing them before sunset. I visited the place next morning and found the tree perfectly bare and the snow under it covered with a multitude of tracks. The fallen buds as well as the birds were all gone. (See Journal of this date)
- " 11 At about 8.15 a.m. I found over 200 Grosbeaks feeding in two white ash trees on Brattle Street, one tree standing in the corner of Mr. Piper's place on Fayerweather Street, the other directly opposite in front of Mrs. Richardson's house. Immense flock at Mr. Piper's place. Both trees were thickly hung with buds at this hour but the birds had thinned the clusters on the upper branches and were fast working downward. At 3.30 P.M. when I visited the place again with Faxon not a bud remained on either tree. The ground beneath was completely covered with fallen buds as with a light brown carpet and the Grosbeaks were all there eating them. By dividing the flock into halves and counting quickly we got a very close

Pinicola enucleator.

1893 Mass.

Jan'y 11
(No 2)

Cambridge - approximation to the total number which we made 225. There were perhaps 25 to 40 more scattered about ^{on} neighboring houses & the roofs of houses.

As we were returning to my house four or five flocks of from ten to thirty birds each passed over us flying towards the rendezvous we had just left. Earlier in the day I saw or heard them ^{frequently} ~~constantly~~ about my house and in Harvard Park, in fact the sound of their piping was constantly in my ears whenever I stepped out of doors and I rarely looked out of the window for a moment without seeing a flock sweeping past in long undulating curves. If they have been as numerous in other parts of the city as hereabouts Cambridge must have harbored several thousands to-day. (See journal for further notes)

Yesterday I saw only one red male and to-day but three, the latter all on the ground at once in the big flock at Mr. Piper's place. This would make the proportion of red to gray birds less than one per cent! Mr. M. G. Fernald, however, reports (in a letter to Mr. Miller) that "ten males [i.e. red birds, according to Mr. Miller interpretation] with about three times as many females have been here ^{all} [in the Botanic Garden, Cambridge] ^{all} day. Previous to this I have heard of only two males."

" 12 visited the Piper place at 9.15 a.m. & found about 100 Grosbeaks all at work on the fallen seeds under the oak trees. They had nearly finished them and began leaving the place in small flocks which I was watching them. * There was only one red bird among them but I saw another in a small flock near my house.

Great flock at Mr. Piper's.

On roofs of houses.

Red males

* at 3 P.M. there were 48 under Mr. Piper's oak and an hour later about 25.

† Mr. Fernald says the greatest numbers in the Garden on Jan. 11 when he is confident fully 300 birds spent the day eating the seeds of oak which oak trees had scattered 1997 & did not get busy till the present.

Pinicola enucleator.

1893 Mass.

Jan'y 12
(No 2)

Cambridge - and Mr. Denton afterwards that it in the red cedar in front of the Museum. Curiously enough the Grosbeaks have only visited this tree twice, to my knowledge, within the last week although the upper branches are still blue with berries. They (the birds) seem to have concentrated their attacks on the white ash trees during this period and to have taken them trees in detail, one at a time - although the smaller and more roving flocks have foraged more or less widely and generally among all the trees of this species in Cambridge.

Food

Next to the ash trees they have preferred the Norway Spruces the terminal buds of which they appear to relish greatly. The snow under every spruce of any size in this neighborhood is now thickly strewn with fragments of these buds which the Grosbeaks have dropped while feeding.

The berries of the mountain ash (abundant this year) have also received a small share of their attention and on ^{one} occasion I saw several birds pecking at some frozen apples which were still clinging to the tree, eating the pulp, I thought, although the Grosbeaks peck or cut them to pieces to get at the seeds. Faxon tells me that he has lately seen the Grosbeaks eating Ailanthus buds to some extent but at Arlington (where he is living), as well as here, they are feeding chiefly on the buds of the white ash.

The celerity with which they strip a large ash

Pinicola enucleator.

1893 Mass.

Jan'y 12
(No 3)

Cambridge ~~tree~~ laden, as so many of these trees were a few days ago, with crowded clusters of the brownish, pendant ~~fruit~~, is indeed improving even when due allowance has been made for the great number of birds. They distribute themselves pretty evenly over the entire tree although, as already stated, they usually strip the upper branches first. Each bird works busily and silently and where the seeds are abundant it does not move about much merely bending forward and downward for a seed and after this has been shaken off its wings and eaten reaching for another in the same manner without changing its foothold. I have watched over a hundred birds thus engaged for a minute or more without hearing a sound save the light, crackling rattle of the seeds as they rolled them around in their powerful bills, but usually a low murmuring or whispering whistle, audible only a few ^{rods} yards away, runs through the flock at frequent intervals. When the flock takes flight suddenly & simultaneously this sound is often given by most if not all of the members at once when it resembles the whistling of the wings of a flock of Carolina Doves. Heard at a distance of two or three yards when the air is still it is strikingly ^{like} resembles the rolling flight-note of the Snow Bunting. The loud peep of the Grosbeak also resembles a call of the Snow Bunting when it is heard distinctly but at a distance it may easily be mistaken for the cry of a Blue Jay. It seems to have both as an alarm & "scatter"

Manner of feeding in ash trees.

Silence when feeding

Call notes.

Pinicola enucleator.

1893. Mass.

Jan'y 12
(No 4)

Cambridge call. It is also used during flight but the usual flight call consists of two or sometimes three notes given quickly in a descending series like those of *Totanus melanoleucus* - which they slightly resemble in tone as well as form. This call may be written tee-t'ye'h, tee-tee-t'ye'h or tee-t'ye'h-tee [noted thus on the spot]. A fourth call defies rendering by letters but may be fairly described as a loud, rich chuckle or chuckling whistle of from two to four syllables. This I have usually heard from a single bird perched on the top of a tree near some rich supply of food to which, as it seemed, he was trying to attract the attention of distant comrades. It is not often used. A fifth vocal sound ^{which} completes the list* is a low, harsh, grating cry uttered only, I believe, when two birds are quarreling. ~~Despite their usually gentle placid expression.~~ They often ~~are~~ fall out over some choice morsel of food and indulge in a brief, harmless squabble threatening each other with open bills & half-spread wings & occasionally a feather flick or two is given. In the main however they are unmistakably birds of singularly gentle, amiable disposition and placid if not phlegmatic temperament, social and affectionate in their relations to their own kind and so trustful as regards the, to them, probably novel animal man as to be nearly wholly free from fear or even suspicion.

Call notes

* I afterwards heard a flight cry made by the birds which I supposed when they were first caught. This is a rather loud continuous squawking outcry very like that of a Robin in the chatter of a Hawk.

Quarreling

Disposition

Nevertheless they are subject to frequent and sudden panics. The crack of a whip, the barking

Pinicola enucleator.

1893. Mass.

Jan'y 12
(No 5)

Cambridge - of a dog, the slamming of a door or even a slight a sound as the click of a gun lock will often cause these to scatter and dash off in the wildest confusion. Often such alarms have no obvious cause. The larger the flock the oftener they occur. The great flock on Brattle Street started, yesterday, on an average of over a minute. Loud, continuous sounds did not seem to excite them and they were quite as indifferent as the House Sparrows feeding with them to the near passage of horse cars, diliges and other traffic of the busy street. The sidewalk for a distance of several rods was thickly covered with the fallen ash buds and a score or more of Grosbeaks feasting on them. As we advanced slowly the birds would hop and flit along just ahead of us the nearest within two or three feet. Occasionally a bird would fly between us or alight on the low fence within arms reach. One even attempted to perch on my companion's shoulder but he moved at the critical moment and it glanced to our side. Over the fence where most of the flock were feeding the snow was so light and feathery that they sank into it deeply and waddled rather than hopped as they moved from place to place. They appeared to enjoy this and often fluttered their wings in such a way as to raise a cloud rather than snow above and around them as bathing birds scatter drops of water. Many flying down from the trees above struck the snow with such force as to plump in quite up to their necks when they would stand thus for a half a minute or more "cooling" off as Foxon expressed it.

Great flock
at Mr. Piper's.Subject to
panicsRemarkable
tameless.

Snow bathes

1893. Mass.

Jan'y 13 Arlington Heights - Spent most of the forenoon in the cedar-grown pastures between Prospect St. & the Heights, covering a good deal of ground. Heard Arlington Grosbeaks piping their different tunes but could not find them and concluded that they were merely passing birds which did not alight. On examining the cedar trees I could not find one that had more than a few scattered berries. This accounts sufficiently for the absence of the Grosbeaks. (On the 15th Jan. W. Fayon followed this ridge from the Heights to Waverly. He saw no Grosbeaks until he reached Waverly when he found two flocks feeding on cedar berries which were numerous on some of the trees) Not numerous in the Belmont region.

Belmont - Returning through Waverly & Belmont I saw on four Grosbeaks which flew across the road and into the spruces on the Payson place.

Cambridge - There were three Grosbeaks on the Piper place when I passed it this morning and two when I returned. They were hopping about on the snow under the ash tree gleaning the few seeds that had been overlooked by the big flock. About a dozen also spent the day in my garden dividing their time between the old cedar and a small flowering apple tree which they have not previously visited to my knowledge. Dutton saw them in it at frequent intervals during the entire forenoon and through the afternoon they only left it when I frightened

They attack the fruit of my flowering apple tree.

1893 Mass.

Jan'y 13 Cambridge. - them away by noosing one and jerking it flustering from the tree. The apples, which are scarce larger than large currants, cling to the tree all winter and have never been previously eaten by any bird except Ampelis cedrorum. There was an unusually large crop this year and before the Grosbeaks attacked the little tree its branches were literally crowded with the tiny fruit which, now that it has been repeatedly ~~broken~~ ^{sub-vent} and thawed, has a ~~most~~ pleasant ^{sub-acid} flavor. The Grosbeaks, however, did not eat the pulp, except perhaps incidentally, in small quantities, but crushing the apples between their powerful bills exposed out the large seeds of which each fruit usually contains two and swallowed them. The pulp was dropped, or when, as was frequently the case, it adhered to the bill, shaken off or removed by rubbing the bill against a twig. As a rule the apple was bitten off a little above the stem so that its basal portion ^{with} ^{long} ^{attached} ~~attached to~~ the stem remained ^{to} the tree.

* I have noticed a general flight towards the westward at evening during the past few days and a return flight in the morning but have not been able to trace it.

By sunset, when the Grosbeaks had left and flew off to the westward*, the ends of the twigs and branches had been quite stripped of their fruit.

" 14 The birds returned to their feast before sunrise this morning and spent the entire day in the apple tree excepting when I drove them off by noosing one of them. Their numbers varied from time to time but were exceeded a dozen or fifteen. There was one red male among them. I saw no Grosbeaks elsewhere to-day. The little flowering apple tree was nearly ^{stripped} ~~stripped~~ ^{during} by a

Pirriola cucullator.

Torrey's

1893

Mass.

Jan. 14

Wellesley Hills. - Mr. Bradford Torrey writing under notes
 this date to Mr. Faxon says: "As well as I
 can make out the Grosbeaks are much
 less numerous here than they were say
 two or three weeks ago. I saw my greatest
 number on the 25th of Dec. [1892] They
 couldn't be counted but I made here of 255+.
 The ash trees are stripped, and I fancy the Food
 Norway Spruces are pretty well bedded, and
 naturally the birds have gone elsewhere, especially
 as the snow has covered the ash buds which
 had fallen to the ground. I have seen them
 eating cedar berries and maple buds, but
 should say they depended mainly on the
 ashes and spruces. I have been out compara-
 tively little since Jan. came in and my
 conclusions stated above are to be taken
 accordingly. The largest number of the Grosbeaks
 listed this month was on the 7th 35+.

Of their calls I note down almost exactly Calls
 like the Red Crossbill's, down like the Goldfinch's,
 one that is curiously like the Snow Bunting's,
 and one that suggests the Red-winged Blackbird's
 whistle."

* The note here referred to is apparently a
 shortened modification of the ordinary whistle
 (peer). It does not to my ear resemble the
 Crossbill's peep at all closely but Faxon sees the
 resemblance and has been actually deceived by it.
 He thinks it is some lost type of an older species
 W. B.

Pinicola enucleator

1893. Mass.

Jan. 15 Cambridge - At intervals during to-day the flowering apple tree in my garden was visited by Pine Grosbeaks but there were seldom more than two or three there at one and they barely stayed long. They were restless and acted as if disappointed probably at finding so little fruit remaining. I saw only one, the red male seen yesterday, a fairly fine but not really bright colored bird.

The tree, to-day, was infested with House Sparrows. *Passer leucurus* a new arrival from *Pinicola*. These birds have never heretofore molested the apples but when the Grosbeaks began their raids the Sparrows gathered and watched them. By the end of the first day I saw several Sparrows crushing the fruit between their mandibles exactly in the manner of the Grosbeaks but I think they ate the pulp as well as the seeds. They are now finishing what the Grosbeaks have left.

" 16 The Grosbeaks are reluctant to leave my little apple tree. Although it is now almost completely stripped of its fruit one or two birds have visited it a number of times but they did not on any occasion stay more than a few minutes. I found them too shy or restless to approach within moving distance.

" 17 Saw only one Grosbeak to-day. It came into my garden about noon & flew about from tree to tree calling. Spelman reports a flock of about a dozen feeding this morning on the fruit of a flowering apple at Mr. Smith's.

*Pinicola enucleator.*1893 Mass.

Jan. 13-15 Cambridge. In my notes under these dates I have referred incidentally to trapping some of the Pine Grosbeaks which have been eating the fruit of my flowering apple tree. I caught seven in all and Mr. Denton two more. He could have doubled this number easily had we wished for this operation is perfectly simple. All that is required is a light pole five or six feet long with a running noose at the end. At first I used fine copper wire for the noose but as this broke twice and allowed the bird to escape I next tried twine which proved much better in every way save that it drew tighter about the bird's neck and was more difficult to unloose (one poor bird, the only red one I captured, was choked to death before my fingers, numbed with cold, could release the noose). A little experience showed that the noose should be about two inches in diameter and should be drawn close up to the end of the pole so as to be easily and surely guided among the branches and kept from catching on the ends of the twigs.

Snaring
Grosbeaks.Implements
required

Using two joints of a light fly rod for my pole and standing within six or eight feet of the tree (which is only five or six feet in height) I would direct my victim and try to slip the noose over his head. This was not always easy for the wind ~~often~~ blew the noose about and the bird seldom remained perfectly still for more than a second or two at a time although he should not be slightest fear or suspicion allowing the coarse brown twine to rub against

Method of
using the
noose &
pole.Behavior
of birds

Pipicola erubescens

1893, Mass.

Jan. 13-15 Cambridge - his bill and the end of the pole
 (No 2) to strike him on the crown without, at the
 most, doing more than push the nose aside
 or bend his head to avoid the pole as if it
 were merely a troublesome twig which persisted
 in getting in his way. All the while he would
 be eagerly picking off the little apples and
 extracting and eating their seeds in the manner
 already noted. From time to time he would
 pause and look at me brightly and enquiringly
 yet with such evident fearless confidence that
 it was not easy to persist in the attempt on
 his liberty. Yet there was an element of excitement
 about this strange angling closely akin to that
 of certain kinds of fishing and when, finally,
 - usually during one of the pauses just mentioned -
 I succeeded in getting the nose over the birds
 head and slipping it well down on his neck
~~and then~~ struck lightly yet firmly and
 landed my fluttering prize in the snow by
 a downward sweep of the pole I felt the
 same keen thrill that I have so often
 experienced on catching a fine trout.

The next thing was to secure the bird and
 release the wren by finding & slipping up the
 loop. Some of my captives submitted to this in
 silence & very quietly & sensibly. Others struggled
 violently & squallied loudly like a Robin in the
 clutches of a Hawk. Several bit my fingers
 viciously causing some pain but not cutting
 or breaking the skin. Two birds which I

Snaring

Behavior of
Birds.

*Pinicola enucleator.*1893 Mass.Snaring

Jan 13-15 Cambridge - put in a large cage refused to allow
(No 3) eat or drink and spent most of their time
fluttering against the wires. At the end of
forty-eight hours they had not touched any
of the food in the cage and were moody and
dejected. Fearing that they would die I turned
them out in a small room containing four
of their companions which had been placed
here when first caught and, after fluttering
a little at the windows, had quickly become
reconciled to confinement and attacked the
hemp seed which I offered them. The birds
that had been caged very soon joined their
companions at the tray of hemp seed and
made up for their long fast. All six of
these captives will now eat and drink while
I am in the room near them.

On one occasion I actually snared a
bird in the little apple tree without causing
its companions any apparent alarm but usually
the screams and fluttering of the victim started
all the rest of the flock at once and sent
them off in some confusion to the tops of the
nearest tall trees from which they descended
again, however, as soon as I had walked away
and sometimes while I was still engaged at
fixing the captive bird from the cross.

One Grosbeak which I snared fairly but which
escaped by the breaking of the wire did not forget
this narrow escape but afterwards refused to let me
get the noose near him, at first hopping through

Pinicola enucleator.

1893. Mass.

Snaring

Jan. 13-15 Cambridge - The branches to the opposite side of the tree and then, if I followed, taking flight. A bird Nevertheless he was the last bird of them all escapes the to abandon the feast. As far as I could seen & make out he tried to warn his comrades afterwards against me and with some success for his avoids it behavior and cries often caused them to stop & this to feeding and more than once they all followed around his him when he took wing. I caught several, Compassionate however, in spite of his efforts to put them on their guard

Mr. Walter Deane, whom I have interested in Maximus in the Grosbeaks and who has made a microscopic which the examination of the small fragments found on Grosbeaks the snow under spruces where these birds have attacked buds been feeding and also of the branches of the of Norway trees themselves, finds that the birds eat only spruce the nucleus, a soft, greenish mass of tissue scarcely larger than the head of an ordinary pin & lying at the base of the terminal or axillary bud. This nucleus may be that of a future branch, cone, or laminate blossom. The bird bites or breaks off the bud about midway between its extremity and base and picks out the nucleus leaving its protecting outer scales on the tree. The fragments found under the trees consist of the terminal halves of the buds, either intact or broken into their component scales. The fruit of the white ash is split along the middle of the flat sides from the base and of white towards the extremity & sometimes into two halves. ash

*Pinicola enucleator*1893. Mass.January

Brookline. Mr. Kennard tells me that he saw the first Grosbeaks, a flock of about thirty, on Jan. 8th. They have been numerous ever since and he has ^{observed} quite as many within the last few days as during the period when the great flight was in Cambridge. (Jan. 20-13th) They have been fed chiefly on spruce buds & ash buds (~~Cambridge~~ Jan. 23rd) but he has also seen them eating larch buds and the buds of the rock maple. (Jan. 23, 1893)

Food

I am also told that the Grosbeaks which in Cambridge fed to some extent on the buds of the hawthorn, grinding the berries between their mandibles to get at them.

Dr. Slade and Mr. C. E. Fayon saw them eating barberries in Brookline.

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1893 Mass.

- March 4 Cambridge - A flock of 30 on Highland St. eating seeds of the white ash - all gray birds. (Geo. Deane)
- " 2 Arnold Arboretum - A small flock seen by friend of C. E. Faxon
- " 5 Arlington - Flock of 16, one a red male (Faxon & Hoffmann)
- " " Cambridge - Flock of 4 on Foster Street. (Walcott)
- " 8 " " Three hopping about on the snow under the pines on the Bowditch place. There may have been others in the ~~area~~ trees as I could not stop to investigate - W.B.
- " 11 Arlington - A flock of 23 eating white ash seeds. } (Hoffmann)
- " " Belmont " " " 15 " privet berries } (Hoffmann)
- " " Cambridge " " " 6 " rock maple buds } (Hoffmann)
- " 12 Wellesley - One seen by J. W. Denton.
- " 13 Arlington - Flock of 8 or 10 one red male singing softly - Hoffmann.
- " 14 " " One gray bird - Faxon & Hoffmann.

Maine

- " 16 Brewer - Here to-day. We notice they appear just after every fall of snow, like the Snow Buntings" M. Hardy.
- " 19 Waltham Mass. Flock of 30+, another of 12 in white ashes - Hoffmann
- " 20 Brookline " Mr. Kennard has seen them daily up to this date.

" 22 One of my captive Grosbeaks warbled at intervals this morning in low tones like a young Purple Finch. All fine birds are doing well but they are actually much wilder & less trustful than when first caught. Captive bird sings a little.

April 4 Arlington. Two seen by Hoffmann, the very last reported by anyone

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- Jan. 15 Quincy - Flock of about 40 seen by Spelman
 " 16 Cambridge - Two near my place
 " 17 " One " " "
 " 18 " Flock of 6 flying past Museum Comp. Tool
 " 19 " Heard near Mrs. Comp. Tool.
 " 20 " " " " " "
 " 22 " Two gray birds on John C. Gray place
 " 21 " Flock of 5 eating flowering apples (Spelman)
 " 24 " Heard near Mrs. Comp. Tool.
 " 27 " One in sparrows near Observatory (Bolton)
 " 28 Longwood - Flock of about 50 (Harry Gurnough)
 " 29 Wellesley - Flock of 24 birds, all gray (Denton).
Feb. 1 Wellesley Hill - Flock of 17 birds (Torrey)
 " 1 Cambridge - One bird seen (Faxon)
 " 5 Arlington & Belmont - Three flocks, 6, 6, and 12 birds (Faxon)
 " 6 Wellesley - Two birds (Denton)
 " 9 Cambridge - One heard near my home.
 " 12 Jamaica Plain - Flock of 12 (Hoffmann)
 " 15 Wellesley - Flock of 20 (Denton) feeding on frozen
 apples hanging on the trees"
 " 23 Cambridge - Three gray birds in clear front of my window.

A REMARKABLE FLIGHT OF PINE GROSBEAKS
(*PINICOLA ENUCLEATOR*).

Auk, XII, July, 1895, pp. 245-256.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

TOWARD the end of November, 1892, Pine Grosbeaks appeared in eastern Massachusetts for the first time in three years. My earliest date is November 21, when I heard a bird in Concord, Mass. Soon after a flock was met with in Ipswich, and by the first week in December the birds had been reported in large numbers from Belmont, Wellesley Hills, Fitchburg and other towns.

On the 21st of December, twenty-seven Grosbeaks, the first I had seen in Cambridge, visited a red cedar behind our house, and spent half an hour feeding on the abundant berries, but with the exception of these birds I saw no more in the city until the second week in January. Reports kept coming in, however, of their appearance in unusual numbers in the surrounding towns, and of their great increase in number during the first weeks in January. Flocks of over a hundred birds were seen in Wellesley Hills and in Arlington.

On January 9 I met with a flock of about forty-five in some spruces not far from the centre of the city, and near the same place I found, next day, a flock of fully one hundred and twenty-five. The owner of the grounds said that the birds were first seen there on the morning of the 8th; that during this and the following day they devoted themselves to some white ash trees immediately about his house; and that by the afternoon of the 9th they had stripped these trees of their fruit.

When I first saw them they were assembling in a large white ash which overhangs the street. This tree was loaded with fruit, and with snow clinging to the fruit-clusters and to every twig. In a few minutes it also supported more than a hundred Grosbeaks who distributed themselves quite evenly over every part from the drooping lower, to the upright upper, branches and began shelling out and swallowing the seeds, the rejected wings of which, floating down in showers, soon gave the surface of the

snow beneath the tree a light brownish tinge. The snow clinging to the twigs and branches was also quickly dislodged by the movements of the active, heavy birds and for the first few minutes it was incessantly flashing out in puffs like steam from a dozen different points at once. The finer particles, sifting slowly down, filled the still air and enveloped the entire tree in a veil-like mist of incredible delicacy and beauty, tinted, where the sunbeams pierced it, with rose, salmon, and orange, elsewhere of a soft dead white,—truly a fitting drapery for this winter picture,—the hardy Grosbeaks at their morning meal. They worked in silence when undisturbed and so very busily that at the end of the first hour they had actually eaten or shaken off nearly half the entire crop of seeds. Some men at work near by afterwards told me that this tree was wholly denuded of fruit by three o'clock that afternoon when the birds descended to the ground and attacked the fallen seeds, finishing them before sunset.

The next day (January 11) the city was fairly in possession of the Grosbeaks. The sound of their piping was constantly in my ears whenever I stepped out of doors, and I rarely looked out of the window for a moment without seeing a flock sweeping past in long, undulating curves. Mr. Hoffmann writes under this date: "In the afternoon there was a flock of over sixty-five birds in the college yard, feeding in the snow under the ash trees. The birds on the plank walks hardly moved to let the men pass, and one actually lit on my hat as I stood beneath the large ash tree. Numbers were feeding outside the yard between the car-tracks, and on the sidewalks. Many people were watching them."

Fully a mile from the college, but very near the trees which the birds had stripped on the previous day, stand two large ash trees in which, shortly after eight o'clock, I found over two hundred Grosbeaks feeding. Both trees were thickly hung with seeds at this hour, but the birds had thinned the clusters on the upper branches and were fast working downward. At half-past three that afternoon, when I visited the place again with Mr. Faxon, not a seed remained on either tree. The snow beneath was completely covered with fallen seeds as with a light brown carpet, and the Grosbeaks were all there eating them. By dividing the flocks into halves and counting quickly, we got a very close

approximation to the total number which we made two hundred and twenty-five. There were perhaps twenty-five to forty more scattered about on neighboring spruces and the roofs of houses.

A part of the flock was distributed over the sidewalks for a distance of several rods, feeding on the fallen seeds. As we advanced slowly the Grosbeaks flew between or alighted on the wires of the low fence within arm's reach. One even attempted to perch on my companion's shoulder, but he moved at the critical moment and it glanced to one side. Over the fence where most of the flock was feeding, the snow was so light and feathery that the birds sank into it deeply and wallowed rather than hopped from place to place. They appeared to enjoy this, and often fluttered their wings in such a way as to scatter the snow above and around them as bathing birds scatter drops of water. Many flying down from the trees above struck the snow with such force as to plump in quite up to their necks, when they stood thus for half a minute or more.

During the same day a flock of fully three hundred Grosbeaks were reported from the Botanic Gardens, equally distant from each of the two flocks described above; if the birds were as numerous in other parts of the city, Cambridge must have harbored several thousands.

The next morning the great flock at the two ash trees had decreased to a hundred birds, who were all on the ground finishing the fallen seeds. They began leaving the place in small parties while I was watching them, and at four o'clock that afternoon only about twenty-five remained.

On the 13th, I spent most of the forenoon in the cedar-grown pastures which encircle the suburbs of Cambridge. I heard a few Grosbeaks piping but could not find them. On examining the cedar trees, I could not discover one that had more than a few scattered berries. A report from Wellesley Hills, under date of January 14, showed a similar departure of the Grosbeaks from that region, and a like explanation,—the stripped condition of the food-bearing trees.

During their invasion of Cambridge the Grosbeaks seem to have concentrated their attacks on the white ash trees, and to have taken these successively, although the smaller flocks foraged

more or less widely and generally among all the trees of this species in Cambridge.

The celerity with which the Grosbeaks stripped a large ash, laden with crowded clusters of the brownish, pendent fruit, was surprising, even when due allowance is made for the great number of birds. They distributed themselves pretty evenly over the entire tree, although, as already stated, they usually attacked the upper branches first. Each bird worked busily and silently and, when the fruit was abundant, moved about but little, merely bending forward and downward for a seed, and after this had been sheared of its wings and eaten, reaching for another in the same manner without changing its foothold. I have watched over a hundred birds thus engaged for a minute or more without hearing a sound save the light crackling rustle of the seeds as they were rolled in the powerful bills.

Next to the ash trees, the Grosbeaks preferred the Norway spruces, the terminal buds of which they appeared to relish greatly. The snow under every spruce of any size in the area which the birds invaded was thickly strewn with fragments of these buds. Mr. Walter Deane, who made a microscopic examination of these small fragments, and also of the branches of the trees themselves, found that the birds ate only the nucleus, a soft, greenish mass of tissue, scarcely larger than the head of an ordinary pin, and lying at the base of the terminal or axillary buds. This nucleus may be that of a future branch, cone, or staminate blossom. The bird bites or breaks off the bud about midway between its extremity and base, and picks out the nucleus, leaving its protecting outer scales on the trees. The fragments found under the trees consist of the terminal halves of these buds, either intact, or broken into their component scales.¹ The fruit of the white ash is split along the middle of the flat sides from the base well towards the extremity and sometimes into two halves.

The Grosbeaks, as I have already said, sometimes fed without making a sound except the cracking or crunching of their food, but usually a low murmuring or whimpering whistle, audible

¹Mr. Deane has published some notes on this subject in the *Botanical Gazette* (Vol. XVIII, No. 4, April, 1893, pp. 143, 144).

only a few rods away, ran through the flocks at frequent intervals. When a number of birds took flight suddenly and simultaneously this sound was often given by most if not all of them at once. It resembles the whistling of the wings of a flock of Carolina Doves and also, if the air be still and the birds very near at hand, the rolling flight note of the Snow Bunting. The loud *peer* of the Grosbeaks is not unlike another call of the Snow Bunting when it is heard distinctly, but at a distance it may be easily mistaken for the cry of a Blue Jay. It seems to serve both as an alarm note and to call the scattered members of a flock together, and it is sometimes used during flight, but the usual flight call consists of two, or sometimes three notes, given quickly in a descending series like those of the Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*)—which they slightly resemble in tone as well as form. This call may be written “tē-t’yēh, tē-tē-t’yēh,” or “tē-t’yēh-tē.” A fourth call defies rendering by letters, but may be fairly described as a loud rich chuckle or chuckling whistle of from two to four syllables. This I usually heard from a single bird perched on the top of a tree near some tempting supply of food to which, as it seemed, he was trying to attract the attention of distant comrades. It was not often used. Some birds which I noosed made, when first caught, a rather loud, continuous, squealing or squawking outcry very like that of a Robin in the clutches of a Hawk. A sixth vocal sound, which completes the list, was a low, harsh, grating cry, uttered only, I believe, when two birds were quarreling.

The Grosbeaks often fell out over some choice morsel of food and indulged in a brief, harmless squabble threatening each other with open bills and half-spread wings, and occasionally giving or receiving a feeble peck or two. In the main, however, they were unmistakably gentle and amiable in disposition, placid if not phlegmatic in temperament, social and affectionate in their relations to their own kind, and in their attitude towards man almost wholly free from fear or even suspicion.

Nevertheless they were subject to frequent and sudden panics. The crack of a whip, the barking of a dog, the slamming of a door, or even so slight a sound as the click of a camera shutter, frequently caused them to scatter, and dash off in the wildest

confusion. Sometimes these alarms had no obvious cause. The larger the flocks the oftener they occurred. The great flock at the two ash trees started, on an average, once a minute. Loud, continuous sounds did not seem to excite them, and they were quite as indifferent as the House Sparrows feeding with them, to the near passage of horse cars, sleighs, and the other traffic of the busy street.

A flock of about a dozen Grosbeaks fed for a day or two in a flowering apple (*P. parkmanni*) growing in our garden. This tree is only five or six feet high. Its apples, which are scarcely larger than large currants, cling to the twigs all winter and had never been previously eaten by any birds except Waxwings (*Ampelis cedrorum*). There had been an unusually large crop in 1892, and the branches of the little tree were literally crowded with the tiny fruit. The Grosbeaks did not eat the pulp, except perhaps incidentally, in small quantities, but crushing the apples they squeezed out the large seeds, of which each fruit usually contains two, and swallowed these. The pulp was dropped, or when, as was frequently the case, it adhered to the bill, shaken off, or removed by rubbing the bill against a twig. As a rule the apple was bitten off a little below the stem so that its basal portion with the long stem remained attached to the tree.

House-sparrows, who had never before molested the apples, gathered when the Grosbeaks began their raid and watched them. By the end of the first day I saw several Sparrows crushing the fruit between their mandibles exactly in the manner of the Grosbeaks, but I think they ate the pulp as well as the seeds. They afterward finished what the Grosbeaks had left.

I snared several of the Grosbeaks which frequented this tree, using two joints of a light fly rod and a running noose of twine. It was not always an easy task, for the wind blew the noose about, and the birds seldom remained perfectly still for more than a second or two at a time, although they showed not the slightest suspicion or nervousness, allowing the coarse brown twine to rub against their bills and the end of the pole to strike their crowns without, at the most, doing more than to push the noose aside, or to bend their heads to avoid the pole. I actually caught one without alarming the rest of the flock, but usually the

screams and flutterings of my victim started his companions at once. They would return, however, as soon as I walked away, and sometimes while I was still engaged in freeing the captive bird from the noose. One Grosbeak which escaped from my hands after being snared would not again permit me to get the noose near him, and even, I thought, tried to warn his companions of their danger; nor was he wholly unsuccessful, for his alert behavior and loud cries often caused them to stop feeding and more than once when he took wing they all followed him.

The remarkable numbers and tameness of the Grosbeaks which visited Cambridge led me to suspect that they formed part of a much larger body of birds which had come an unusual distance and spread over an exceptionally wide territory. Hoping to get light on these points I sent circulars throughout New England, to the Middle States, as far west as Illinois and Wisconsin, and as far north as Canada, asking for information as to the local presence or absence of the Grosbeaks during the winter of 1892-93, their numbers, and the approximate dates of their arrival, departure and greatest abundance, the proportion of adult males to females and young, and their food. Through the kindness with which these circulars were answered I am now able to trace with some degree of apparent accuracy the route followed by the majority of the birds and the total area covered by their flight.

Before doing this, however, it may be well to consider briefly the biographical matter furnished by my correspondents. This relates chiefly to food and the ratio of bright males to dull-plumaged birds. The tables given below summarize the evidence on these two points. It will be seen on examining Table I that the chief food of the Grosbeaks consisted of the seeds of the white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and of the apple, the fruit of the apple and of the American and European mountain ash (*Pirus americana* and *Pirus aucuparia*) and of the buds of the sugar maple (*Acer saccharinum*), and Norway spruce (*Abies excelsa*). The birds apparently attacked the fruit and buds of other plants only when the supply of their favorite food was exhausted.

That the birds ate the seeds of the apple is clearly shown, and it seems probable that they ate the pulp as well. One corre-

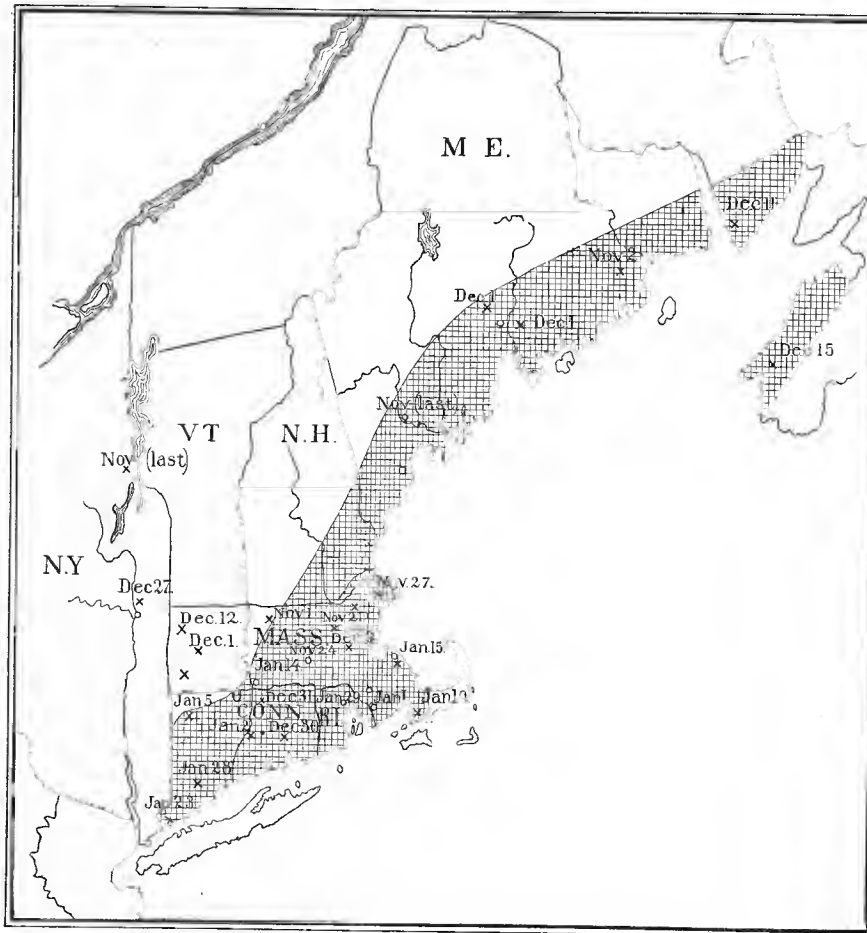
spondent (M. Hardy), however, is sure that in Maine they ate the pulp only incidentally in their efforts to get the seeds.

With regard to the order of preference which the Grosbeaks followed when more than one kind of suitable food was within reach, it may be mentioned that eighteen specimens examined at Andover, Mass., between Nov. 30 and Mar. 11, show that up to the second week in January the birds ate ash-seeds almost exclusively. Between that time and the beginning of March, they fed chiefly on rotten apples, and during March mainly on maple buds. A report from Arlington gives ash-seeds as their principal food till January 15, rotten apples during February, and maple buds in March.

That the movements of the Grosbeaks were governed by the abundance or absence of food was clearly shown by the behavior of a flock of about thirty-six birds which appeared at West Medford about the 1st of December and soon stripped an English hawthorn of its fruit. The owner of the place then put out hemp seed to which the birds came regularly, collecting in the neighboring pastures, and flying in a body to the feeding ground. The hemp was placed on the top of a kennel surrounded by twenty dogs, whose noise, however, did not seem to disturb the Grosbeaks in the least. They fed four times a day — at morning, noon, four P. M., and sundown. One day when the hemp had not been put out for them, the birds ate all the seeds of a Roxbury waxwork vine (*Celastrus scandens*). By February 16, their number had diminished to eighteen, but these came regularly, and grew exceedingly tame. On March 12, the date of the last report, they had increased again to twenty-eight.

With regard to the relative number of bright males to dull plumaged birds, the evidence shows very clearly that as the flight pressed southwards the number of bright males steadily diminished until at Woods Hole, the southernmost station for Massachusetts, flocks of a hundred members each often did not contain a single red bird. This change in the normal ratio seems to have been due chiefly if not wholly to the fact (attested by many different observers) that as the flocks passed slowly through the more thickly settled districts the conspicuous and attractive red birds were nearly all picked off by country gunners and taxidermists.

Thus at Andover, Mass., twelve red males were killed; in Framingham two were taken early in December, and much shooting was reported later in the month. Similar reports came from many other stations.



MAP I. DISTRIBUTION OF THE PINE GROSBEAK, WINTER OF 1892-93.

It remains to discuss the route taken by the Grosbeaks during this remarkable flight, and to define the area which they are known to have covered. The lack of observers north of New

England leaves their starting point and the route by which they reached Nova Scotia and the coast of Maine a matter of conjecture, but after they had passed the Maritime Provinces, their progress through Maine to southern New England may be easily traced.

Map No. 1 shows with two exceptions all the stations from which Grosbeaks were reported in unusual numbers. These exceptions are Locust Grove, in northwestern New York, and Halifax in Nova Scotia. At the former station they were seen from the end of November up to the end of January. In Halifax they were very numerous about November 28. They were also reported from Godbout, Quebec, and from Toronto and vicinity, but in no unusual numbers. A few were seen at Ottawa, but none at Montreal. On the Saskatchewan River they were found in only their usual numbers.

These facts indicate that there was no marked flight in the St. Lawrence Valley, and that the flocks which invaded New England came from Labrador or Newfoundland across or around the Gulf of St. Lawrence to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

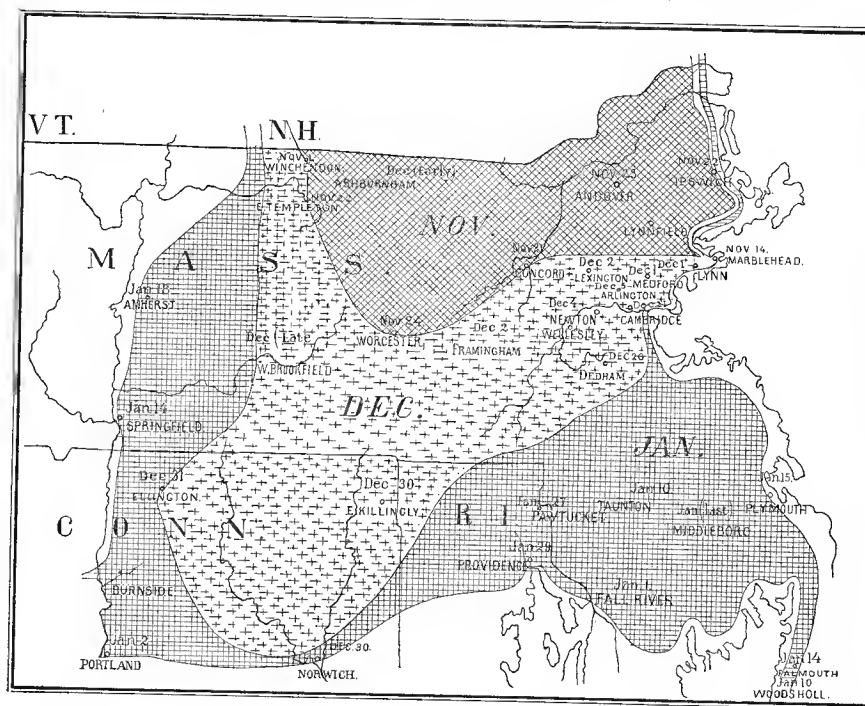
From eastern Maine, where they were seen in flocks of from ten to forty birds each, they entered northeastern Massachusetts, the first flocks having been noted there about the third week in November. In Massachusetts the horde seems to have divided, one party entering Connecticut, and pushing its vanguard as far as Stamford¹; the other invading Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts as far as Woods Hole, where they were numerous as late as February 7.

A reference to Map No. 1 shows also a number of stations to the westward of the area supposed to have been covered by the principal flight. With the exception of Locust Grove, these stations were all either in Berkshire County, Mass., or just over the New England line in New York. It is possible of course to consider the birds which visited them as belonging to the great flight, but inasmuch as Grosbeaks appear much more frequently in Berkshire County and northern New York than in eastern

¹ Mr. J. T. Delafield reported one bird about Dec. 1, at New Rochelle on Long Island Sound, New York.

Massachusetts, and as several of the extralimital records— notably for New York—relate to dates in November or early December, it seems better to treat them as representing independent movements, such as were noted during the same winter in northern Maine and New Hampshire.

Map No. 2 shows the gradual and fairly regular southward advance of the greater part of the flock across southern New England, from the end of November through December and January. That the birds pushed no further southward is evidence that they found food enough to supply them until their return, which, though difficult to trace, apparently occurred in



MAP II. DISTRIBUTION OF THE PINE GROSBEEK, WINTER OF 1892-93.

the early part of March. Several observers in eastern Massachusetts, who were in the field throughout the winter, and kept regular observations, reported a falling off in February, and a marked increase in March. The latest records were Fitchburg, April 2, and Arlington April 4.

TABLE I.

Food of the Pine Grosbeak.

Seeds of	1. <i>White Ash</i> .—Nova Scotia (1); Massachusetts (9); Connecticut (1); New York (1). = 12
	2. <i>Apple</i> .—Maine (1); New Hampshire (1); Massachusetts (4). = 6
	3. <i>Crab Apple</i> .—Maine (3); Massachusetts (2) [P. parkmanii (1)]. = 5
	4-6. <i>Norway Spruce, White Pine, Weeds</i> .—Massachusetts (3). = 3
	7. <i>Grasses</i> .—Massachusetts (2). = 2
	8-11. <i>Ailanthus, Roxbury Waxwork, Pitch Pine</i> (J. H. Bowles, Punkapog), <i>Black Ash</i> (O. Durfee, Fall River).
Buds of	1. <i>Rock Maple</i> .—Maine (2); New Hampshire (1); Massachusetts (9); Connecticut (1); New York (1). = 14
	2. <i>Norway Spruce</i> .—Massachusetts (6); Connecticut (1). = 7
	3. <i>White Pine</i> .—Maine (1); Massachusetts (1); Connecticut (1). = 3
	4. <i>White Ash</i> .—(N. B. Hale, Worcester), (J. H. Bowles, Punkapog). = 2
	5. <i>Larch</i> .—Massachusetts (2). = 2
6-10. <i>White Maple, Sycamore</i> (H. A. P. Smith, Digby, Nova Scotia), <i>Red Cedar, Honeysuckle</i> (F. H. Kennard, Brookline, Massachusetts), <i>Walnut</i> (J. H. Bowles, Punkapog, Massachusetts). = 1	
Soft fruit of	1. <i>Apple</i> .—Massachusetts (8); Connecticut (1); New York (1). = 10
	2. <i>Mt. Ash</i> .—New Brunswick (1); Maine (3); Massachusetts (2). = 6
	3, 4. <i>Black Alder, Honeysuckle</i> . = 2
	5-10. <i>Bush Honeysuckle</i> (Dierville), <i>High Bush Cranberry, Privet, Cedar, English Hawthorn, Sumac</i> . = 1

TABLE II.

Proportion of Red Males.

1. Canada (Inland)	= 1 to 6½ gray birds
2. Northern New England and Maritime Provinces	= 1 to 10 " "
3. Massachusetts (western and northern sections)	= 1 to 10 " "
4. Massachusetts (eastern and central sections)	= 1 to 30 " "
5. Massachusetts (southern section)	= 1 to 100 " "
6. Rhode Island	= 1 to 150 " "

Parus carolinensis.

1889

" I watched Grosbeaks feeding a few feet from me and found Food they were eating the green buds from the end of pine and spruce. I am sure of this because I got so near as to see just what they took and the fresh break from whence it came. I have often seen them getting ash and maple and spruce seeds, rock maple buds, sumach and high cranberries. I never knew before that they ate such pitchy food as the buds of the pine." --- Letter of Manly Hardy, Dec. 1889.

" You can be sure that this Grosbeak eats the Eating buds Terminal buds of both the white pine and black of spruce (Cat) spruce as I have not only seen them pick them but have examined the broken parts they came from" (M. Hardy letter Dec. 11-1889) Mass.

Nov. 26 Belmont. Shot a ♀ which had the bill gummed
one with either pine or spruce pitch
doubtless from buds.

Dec 12 Ashby. A flock of seven or eight black spruces
on the side of Mt. Watatic. I watched them
for several minutes eating the terminal buds
of their spruces and upon shooting & dissecting
two of them found their stomachs filled
with the fragments of their buds. A few days
later I found them numerous in black
spruce woods on Mt. ~~Wat~~ Graylock.

*Parus carolinensis*1889 Maine

Nov. 20 Brewer. "Pine Grosbeaks here in quantities and very tame" (Mr. Hardy let. Nov. 20/89)

Mass.

" 26 Belmont. - Shot a ♀ near Abington Heights, a solitary bird. Faxon, who has been in the field almost daily this autumn, has seen no Grosbeaks to date (Dec. 11) & considers this specimen a straggler but Denton reports that the species was noted in some numbers in Sherborn, Mass., by Smith last week.

Dec. 12 Ashby. - Found a flock of seven in an isolated grove of black spruces on the W. side of Mt. Watatic near its base. At least two birds were red males. They were all feeding on the buds of the spruces.

" 15-16 Mt. Graylock. One seen flying on the 15th, heard at least ten or twelve times on the 16th. They appeared to be on the upper slopes of the mountain among black spruces.

1890

Jan'y 26 Wellesley. - Although negative evidence points strongly to the inference Wintering that there are few if any Grosbeaks wintering in the at Wellesley Arlington - Belmont - Waltham region (Faxon who is daily afield but not has not seen one thus far) they seem to be fairly numerous in Belmont! at Wellesley where, on the Hunnewell place, Mr. Thos. Smith (one of the gardeners) reports seeing them daily since the 19th, when he shot two specimens & gave them to Denton. The latter visited the place to-day and saw four or five among the Norway spruces on the lawn near the house. Denton says the red cedars about Wellesley bear a good crop of berries this season; those in Belmont & Arlington are wholly without berries. Perhaps this explains the matter.

Parus caeruleus.

1893

May 8

The five Grosbeaks that I housed last February have lived safely and apparently contentedly ever since in the cellar of the museum. They have been fed for the past two months wholly on hemp seed. The males have sung every sunny day a good deal but always in low, warbling, broken phrases like young birds practicing. Not once have I heard one really let himself out.

This morning I liberated all five birds in the garden putting them first in one of the small upper rooms of the museum & drawing them out through the open window. Four of them flew to trees near by but the fifth made straight off over a neighboring building & out of sight. One which chose a cedar tree as a refuge was voluntarily attacked & driven out by a pair of Robins. These alighted in the tops of lilac & pear trees where they sat perfectly still for two or three hours. I saw one eat a partially unfolded lilac bud. At about noon one bird uttered the piping call a number of times but the others did not answer him. At 2 P.M. I could find only one bird remaining in the garden. At 5 P.M. there was a loud thump against the glass of ~~the~~^{very} window from which the Grosbeaks had been liberated. Rushing outside I found one of the poor birds on the ground beneath gasping. It was nearly dead & we had to end its sufferings. None of ~~the~~^{the} Grosbeaks had changed plumage perceptibly during their confinement.

Pinicola enucleator

1893-94

Nov. to Apr. E. Mass. None reported by any trustworthy observer

1894-95

Nov - Apr. E. Mass. None reported this winter but in December (1894) Mr. Reginald Heber Howe found them common at Gardiner, Maine. Under date Feb 22, 1895 Mr. H. C. Brown of Framminglain writes Mr. Purdie "a flock of 40 or so reported in eastern part of town" (Framminglain). Mr. Purdie also tells me that C. K. Rand of Worcester has shown him a red male & a gray bird killed near Worcester this winter. Only a few have been seen there.

1895 Maine

Nov. 20 Brewer, "The first Pine Grosbeak I have seen this season, a solitary young ♂, came into our yard for mountain ash berries. I have been in the woods most of the time for the past two months but have found no Grosbeaks."

New Hampshire

Nov. 18- Glen Ellis Falls. A flock of about a dozen feeding on mountain ash berries. Others heard at Shelburne a few days later.

December Connecticut

9 Portland. "The Pine Grosbeaks are here again. A flock of 7 or 8 were in the cedars yesterday (9th). Two were shot & brought to me. I am almost positive that a single Grosbeak was in the traps on Main St. Nov. 30." (Geo. H. Sage, letter Dec. 10, 1895)

Canada

Nov. 17 Montreal. - Flock of 9 to 12 (2 or 3 red males) reported by Ernest D. Wittle,

Parus carolinensis

1895 Mass.

Dec. 26 Dorchester. One heard by Foster H. Brackett (cf. letter Jan 2/96)

New York

Bath, George

Notes furnished by Dr. A. K. Fisher in letter of Jan. 3, 1896

Nov. 11 Three seen by F. A. Bockhart

" 19 Seven " " " "

Dec. 2 Sixteen " " " "

" 4 to } "I have seen from one to a dozen nearly every day. They
Jan. 2 (1896) are feeding on pine & maple buds. Also on ash and maple
seeds as well as from apples. I have not seen a red male
in any of the flocks" (F. A. Bockhart)

(1895)

Dec. 21 Peterboro. "The first Pine Grosbeaks were seen here [this
winter] on Dec. 21." (Genl S. Miller Jr. letter Jan 14/96)

1896 Maine

January Brewer. "Last week out of a flock of eight Pine Grosbeaks 7 red ♂♂ in
which were feeding on my mountain ash trees seven were flock of 8
the reddest of adult males. No others were in sight. This birds.
is a larger proportion of [old] males than I ever saw
before. (Mr. Hardy letter Jan'y 22, 1896).

Mass.

" Canton. Mr. J. H. Bowles told me Jan'y 31 that Grosbeaks appeared
in Canton early this month & have since been numerous. Of late he
has seen flocks daily. They appear to be feeding wholly on maple buds.

" Bedford. Faxon's friends report them numerous in Bedford.

" Cambridge. Faxon saw a solitary red male at the Museum about
the 20th Jan'y.

Feb. 1 Portland, Conn Mr. Sayer writes that from what he hears
from farmers & others "there must be quite a flight here now"

Pinicola enucleator

1896 Mass.

Feb. 2 Nellesby Hills. - "With Lorry yesterday P. M. saw flock of
18 to 20 Grosbeaks perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ red - or say 6."

(H. A. Poole's letter Feb. 3, 1896)

(I spent this same day in pine woods & cedar pastures
in Arlington without seeing or hearing a Grosbeak. They ~~do~~
~~not~~ seem to have avoided the Cambridge - Belmont - Arlington
region thus far this winter W.B.)

Conn.

" 3 Portland. "Grosbeaks! Grosbeaks! I saw a small flock near
my house this morning feeding in a maple tree. Later
in the day my man found three flocks back in the
country - about 50 birds in all - and shot four adult males"

(Jno. H. Sage letter Feb. 3, 1896)

Mass.

Barnardston, Mass. Reported to Thos. D. Bergen by David Crown
" " - no dates (Bergen's letter to me Feb. 13)

Feb. 14 Concord. - A flock of 8 among white pines eating snow bled on
the branches. Several flew down and alighted on the edge of a
branch where they drank. An old male (the only red bird in
the flock) rambled about over the surface of the snow against
which his rosy-red plumage contrasted most pleasingly. He
moved by a succession of short runs very like those of a
Robin but his gait was different of course for he ^{really} hopped
instead of ran, but the hops were low & not strongly marked.

Rhode Island

" 10 Grotonville [sic]. A male Pine Grosbeak [Received], from a flock
of a dozen or more at Grotonville R. I. (J. M. Southwick letter Feb. 13/96)

Mass.

Springfield. "We have had more Pine Grosbeaks here this
season than for a great many years & recently the
Red birds have appeared in large flocks" (R. D. Morris letter Feb. 17
1896 to W. F. Ayer)

Pinicola enucleator.

Mass. (eastern).

1896-7.

1896. 15, and 20. Five birds seen in Medford. Dec.

" Dec.25. One bird seen in North Saugus.

" " 25 and 26. Ten or more birds seen in Winchendon.

Notes by C.E.Bailey.

: : : : -- _ _ -- : : : :

Concord, Mass.

1899.

On the 23rd I heard a Pine Grosbeak at the Barrett

Nov.1-11.

farm. It was evidently flying for when I whistled an

Also 21, 25
& 26.

imitation of its call it approached and circled about me

apparently coming very close at one time although I did

not succeed in getting a sight at it. Early in December (on

the 2nd I think) Mr.Bigelow met with a small flock of Pine

Grosbeaks at Cohasset and shot two or three of them.

Eastern Massachusetts.

1899.

Mr.H.B.Bigelow saw a flock of five Pine Grosbeaks in ma-

December. ple woods at Cohasset on the 2nd. All were in the plumage

of the female. Two specimens were shot. These were the only

birds reported during the present month although, as already

noted, I heard one at Concord on the 23rd of November.

Pinicola enucleator

10.
Carroll Co., N.H.

Notes on the Pine Grosbeak, (~~Pinicola~~ ~~canadensis~~) taken at Centre Ossipee, Carroll County New Hampshire by Alfred E. Peabie during winter of 1895-'96.

First appearance at Centre Ossipee, Carroll Co. N.H. December 27, 1895. A flock of five (5) were seen feeding on the buds of pine trees, two of which were males (♂) of a bright red color. They kept up a continuous, pleasing warble and allowed me to approach very near them. Flocks were seen occasionally, feeding on the buds of pine trees and spruces also a few were observed eating frozen apples. During January more flocks were seen, occasionally feeding on frozen apples and maple tree buds. On Feb 15, 1896. a large flock of 27 were seen, eight (8) of these were males. They

were feeding on frozen apples and the buds of the pine and spruce.

On Feb. 17 '96 two small flocks were seen. The first flock consisted of four (4) birds one male and three females feeding on pine tree ^{buds} and on juniper berries. The second flock consisted of five (5) birds two males and three females feeding on pine tree buds.

Both flocks were very tame and I approached within a few feet of them while they were busily engaged in picking out the buds that grow on the extreme end of the pine twigs.

Again on Feb 18 '96 a flock of seven (7) were seen, five females and two males. They were feeding on pine buds and the berries of the juniper. They were very tame.

On Feb 21 '96 a flock of three (3) were seen 1 male and two females. They

were feeding on pine buds. On Feb 22 '96 a large flock of these birds were seen. There were nineteen (19) and of that number nine (9) were males. They were feeding on the buds of the pine. On Feb 25 '96 a flock of eight (8) were seen consisting of four males and four females. They were feeding on pine buds and spruce tree ^{buds}. They were very tame and kept up a twitter.

On Feb 26 '96 a pair of these birds were seen feeding on frozen apples and pine buds.

On Feb 27 '96 a flock of four (4) were seen feeding on the buds of the pine. The flock consisted of 1 male and 3 females.

On Feb 28 '96 another flock was seen feeding in a thicket of small pines. This flock was made up of five (5) males and four (4) females.

On March 3 '96 a pair was seen feeding on pine tree buds.

On March 5 '96 a flock of these birds were seen feeding on pine tree buds. The flock consisted of four (4) males and seven (7) females.

March 6 '96 a flock of 7 were seen feeding on pine tree buds. ~~The~~ ^{The} flock was made up of 5 females and 2 males.

Another flock was seen flying of 9 birds.

March 9 '96 — two females were seen feeding on frozen apples.

March 10 '96 a flock of eight (8) were seen feeding on the buds of the pine. The flock was made up of four females and four males.

March 11, 1896. a flock of 4 males and six females were seen feeding on pine and spruce buds.

March 13, 1896. three males were seen

feeding on pine tree buds.

On March 20, 1896. a flock of sixteen were seen feeding on pine tree buds. There were seven males and nine females.

March 21, '96 a flock of four males and four females were seen feeding on the buds of the pine.

Another flock of seven were seen consisting of three males and four females feeding on the buds of the pine. One male was observed feeding on frozen apples.

During March 22, 23, 24, 25 none were observed ~~but~~ ^{and} on March 26 two large flocks were seen feeding on maple buds and on pine and spruce tree buds.

The first flock which were feeding ~~on~~ on a large rock maple tree consisted of 15 birds, 8 males and

7 females. They were hopping and
continually twittering and appeared
to be somewhat shy.
The other flock was feeding on pine
and spruce trees. There were 7 males
and 9 females making 16 in all.

Alfred E. Peble,
Wilmington,
Mass.

Pinicola enucleator

Conn.

Canaan Conn.

Feb. 24th 1896.

Mr. Wm Brewster,

Dear Sir

I have delayed writing in regard to the grosbeaks in order to learn more about them.

The first that I saw were the 14th of Jan. but I afterwards heard of a flock of about 15 seen the last week in Dec. When they first appeared they seemed to frequent the sidehills covered with cedars mostly. Jan. 20th they made their first appearance in the village. Since then there has been hardly a time that

they were not to be found in some part of the village. They have been mostly in flocks of from 5 to 20, but I heard of one flock about a mile from the village of 50 to 75. I went the next day to the place and did not find one. Since their appearance I keep hearing of larger numbers of them in the surrounding towns. My father saw a flock of as many as 100 in a cedar covered pasture about 6 miles south of this place. There is a great difference in the number of males. In some flocks there are none and I have seen flocks of 15 that had 3 or 4. The large flocks have quite a number. When they first-

came they fed almost entirely on cedar berries. Every cedar patch that I visited had its flock or showed that they had fed there. Since they came into the village they seem to prefer the buds of the Norway spruce although occasionally I see a flock in the sugar maples. I have seen a very few feeding in white pines, and they sometimes eat the frozen apples that are left on the trees eating both seeds and pulp. I have not seen them eat the crab apples although they may have done so. There are no ash trees here so I can-

not tell if they would prefer them or not. There were never so many of them known to be in this part of the state as this winter, but I have not seen very many for the last few days. There is a scarcity of other birds with. I have not heard of a snow bunting this winter, I have now and had counted on getting a few specimens as they are very regular usually in their appearance. Also I have not seen a blue jay in over two months and they are one of our most abundant winter birds. If there is anything that I can do for you at any time let me know as I shall be glad to accommodate you.

Yours truly J. J. Stevens.

Pinicola enucleator.

Mr. William Brewster, ^{maine}
Cambridge,
Dear Sir,-

As you were interested in the unusual distribution of Pine Grosbeaks during the winter of 92-93, it may be of moment to you again to learn that they have been in our vicinity for a week or ten days, though not in large flocks as we saw them in '93. Since that time till a week ago, I have not had the good fortune to see one, but February 15, sitting by the window, I was conscious of a large bird alighting in a small tree close by and looking up quickly, had

opportunity to see that it
was a male Pine Grosbeak,
before he took flight.

The same day I heard of
robins being seen in various
parts of the city, and two
people described a new bird
to me, so that I concluded
more than one Grosbeak had
arrived. Two or three morn-
ings later we heard the soft
"te-me-he" of the Grosbeak, and
on going out traced it to a
large Sumac bush and a crab
apple tree growing close to-
gether, where three females
and one male were busy
at work. A man in the stable
near by said he had seen
them there two or three times.

cessive mornings about eight
o'clock. There were no apples
on the tree and they appeared
to be picking either at grubs
or buds, while they were scat-
tering the dried Sumac hor-
soms in all directions.

Since then we have frequently
heard their soft notes on our
walks to and from town, and
yesterday saw two females
and one male picking in
the exposed place about the
root of an elm tree, while
several House Sparrows were
protecting lustily and trying
to muster courage to either
drive them off or eat with
them, the size of the birds seem-
ing far more, however, to appal

them. They were as tame as
the Sparrows and allowed
us to approach near without
any indication of concern.

It has seemed remarkable
to me that during so mild
a winter as we are having
here, the Pine Grosbeaks should
be paying us a visit.

Yours respectfully,

— Abby F. C. Bates —

(Mrs. F. D. Bates)

Waterville, Maine

Febr. 24, 1896.

Pinicola enucleator.

1896-97 New England

Dec-March

Pine Grosbeaks have been reported as numerous this winter at various places in Maine & New Hampshire (especially near Bangor) but I have heard of only one occurrence in Mass. at Frammingham, Feb. 4, 1897 when "a flock of 12 to 15 (one red) were seen on Normal Hill by a competent observer (Mr. Smith)" (F. C. Brown in letter Feb. 26/97)

1897-98

Dec-March

Portland, Conn. "A man who used to bring me Pine Grosbeaks said that he saw his to-day. I have not heard of any before this winter" (J. H. Sage in letter of Jan. 11, 1898 to H. C. Purdie)

Mass.
Fitchburg. "I hear of Pine Grosbeaks reported from Fitchburg."
(R. H. Howe Jr. letter Feb. 15, 1898)

1898-99

Dec-March

None reported from any part of Eastern Mass.

1899. Mass.

Nov. 23

Concord. - Heard one calling in the Bassett woods. It was evidently flying & circled around me when I announced its whistle but I did not see it.

Dec. 2

Cohasset. - a flock of six seen & two or three birds killed by Bigelow.

1900

Maine

January

Brewer. "First Grosbeak seen here last week a solitary adult ♂. I hear of them in numbers around the Rangelys" (Mandy Hardy in letter July 11, 1900)

Parus cuneator.

1907
Feb. 6

Mass.

Cambridge - Pine Grosbeaks appeared in New England and in most of the more northern states east of the Mississippi River last November. In New England they passed southward to Southern Connecticut not long after they were noted in Southern Maine and New Hampshire. At Dublin N. H. they became very numerous by December but no great numbers were seen in eastern Massachusetts until somewhat later in the winter. They were first observed in our garden on January 30 when they attacked the fruit of the Paltmons apple, completely stripping the tree (which had an abundant crop of apples) in the course of the following week. The greatest number of birds seen in this tree at any one time was 25. On February 6 C. F. Batchelder found fully 200 Grosbeaks assembled in the College Yard where they were feeding on the seeds of some large ash trees. He saw not more than 4 or 5 fully adult males. These have been exceptionally scarce this winter everywhere in eastern Massachusetts.

Manly Hardy reported Grosbeaks in considerable numbers at Brewer, Maine early in January and I found a few of them at Bethel, Maine towards the close of that month. Altogether the flight has been one of considerable magnitude although not equal to that which invaded New England in the winter of 1892-1893. The crop of white ash seeds is exceptionally heavy this year. Many of the trees, indeed, are simply loaded with fruit. This was the case, also, in the winter of 1892-1893.

Winter Birds at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.— The winter of 1916-17 is certainly proving an interesting one, for after an interval of three years Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*) have again visited the district. I first noticed them in my garden on December 16. Two females (out of which one was obtained) of the White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) a species new to my list, were observed on the early date of August 31, and a flock of fifteen again on October 27. Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria linaria*) have been plentiful, first arriving on November 5, but Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) and Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) have not put in an appearance as yet. Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) arrived on November 14, and an example of the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) was seen on December 19. Two Hudsonian Chickadees (*Penthestes hudsonicus* subsp.?) were seen on several occasions between October 10 and November 12, and on January 10 an example of the Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) was obtained.— H. MOUSLEY, Hatley, Que.

Aug XXXIV. Apr. 1917, p. 214.

BREEDING OF THE PINE GROSBEEK (*Pinicola enucleator*) IN LOWER CANADA.—Last summer I had the rare good fortune to accompany, as his guest, the Hon. Judge H. E. Taschereau (Chief Justice Supreme Court of Canada) on his annual salmon fishing excursion to the Godbout River, which empties into the St. Lawrence from the north, about six miles from the Pointe des Monts where the river widens into the Gulf.

One rainy afternoon about the middle of July, while the Judge was catching salmon at the famous "Upper Pool" on the Godbout, Mr. Nap. A. Comeau and I climbed a high and densely wooded hill that rises from the western border of the pool, and when near the summit saw a Pine Grosbeak, in the slate and golden plumage, hopping about amongst the branches of a large Balsam (*Abies balsamea*). I was within twenty feet from the bird, but having only a rifle was unable to secure it. Mr. Comeau, who lives at the mouth of the Godbout, told me that this species was by no means rare here, and that he regarded it as a resident. He has since written me that he shot several after I left, and that "the bird is quite common here both summer and winter." Although he has never taken its nest, he says "I have no doubt they breed here, and I have often seen them in the early part of the fall while out trapping. They seem to be fond of keeping near streams and lakes."

Dr. Coues found the Pine Bullfinch breeding on the Labrador Coast, and I have no doubt that it breeds all along the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and perhaps extends even as far west as the Saguenay, along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. It is asserted, on high authority, that it breeds in some parts of Northern New England.—*C. Hart Merriam, M.D., Locust Grove, N. Y.*

Bull. N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 120-121.

NEW BRUNSWICK NOTES.

BY M. CHAMBERLAIN.

Among other interesting ornithological occurrences with which the year 1882 favored observers in the vicinity of St. John was the presence of some six pairs of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) during the entire summer, in a heavy growth of mixed woods, covering the crest of a hill overlooking the Kennebecasis River a few miles from the city.

They were first seen on June 11, when Mr. James W. Banks accidentally shot a female in the very act of arranging some dry grass on a partially formed nest. It was placed in a small spruce some seven feet from the ground and close to the trunk. About a handful of this grass, unmixed with other material, had been laid firmly upon a limb, not woven together, but appearing more like a platform for the main structure to rest upon, than the bottom of a nest. When first seen the male and female were together gathering grass on a hummock close by, and both seemed equally busy. When his mate was killed the male became much excited and exhibited deep distress, continuing for some time within three or four feet of Mr. Banks, as he sat examining the dead bird, and once alighting on a bough close to his head and peering over his shoulder. Upon dissecting the female the eggs were found to be in an advanced condition.

During the season the remaining pairs were seen very often and closely watched, but though they were undoubtedly mated no completed nest was discovered. As the birds were exceedingly tame and easy to approach, their plumage was closely examined. No red coloring was observable, and so little difference was apparent between the males and the females that the sex could not be determined without the aid of a glass, at more than ten paces distant. During the breeding season they sang occasionally but not loudly, their song being a short and rather simple, though sweet-toned melody, which increased in strength of tone and duration toward autumn.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan., 1883, p. 6-7.

WINTER BIRDS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—Several correspondents have asked me if anything has been observed in this locality that would help to account for an unusually large number of boreal birds having visited more southern points during the season that has just passed, but I have failed to find any reason for such an occurrence; for, so far as I can gather from personal observation, and from correspondents in the northern sections of the Province, the usual species have been seen here and in much the same numbers as in former seasons. The Snow Buntings came along about two weeks earlier than they have been noticed for several years, and of the Pine Grosbeaks observed, a larger proportion perhaps have been in the red phase of plumage. Food of all kinds has been as plenty as usual; indeed, the Raptorial species have had a better chance than usual to capture the small rodents, as the fall of snow has been extremely light. But no increase of these birds has been noticed.—*MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, St. John, N. B.*

Bull. N. O. C. 8, April, 1883, p. 126.

Birds within Ten Miles of Point de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

28. *Pinicola enucleator*. PINE GROSBEEK.—A tolerably common resident. In autumn it feeds extensively upon the berries of the mountain ash. I have already published a note on the breeding of this species at Godbout.*

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct., 1882, p. 285

BY T. MCILWRAITH.

The winter of 1882-83 will be remembered in Western Ontario by those who are fond of observing the movements of our native birds as the one in which the Pine Grosbeaks were so plentiful. The visits of these northern strangers are by no means regular; sometimes a few pairs will be observed during January or February, and again they will be absent altogether for several years in succession, but on no previous occasion have they ever appeared in such numbers or stayed so late in the season as during the winter now drawing to a close. They were first observed in the shrubberies in and around the city about the 10th of January, and almost simultaneously with their arrival here there appeared notices in several country newspapers of the "arrival of flocks of strange birds, mostly of a smoky grey colour, but sometimes having a leader clad in glowing crimson."

While here they kept in small flocks, seldom exceeding eight in number, the proportion of adults in crimson dress being about one in twenty. Their forenoons were usually spent in feeding on the berries of the mountain ash, wherever they could be found; they were in the most frequented thoroughfares; and where the trees overhung the streets, the sidewalks were soon littered with the pulpy part of the berries, the birds using only the hard seeds. As the season advanced the supply of berries gave out, and they then resorted to the buds of the larch, and also fed freely on the fruit of such apples as they found still hanging on the trees in the orchards. In the afternoon they retired to the evergreens for rest and shelter. While here they showed the most gentle, sociable disposition, enjoying each other's company and keeping up communication by a series of soft call-notes. Occasionally, when all was still, a male would indulge in a low, soft warbling song of considerable duration, which I could fancy might be delightfully soothing in the stillness of a sick chamber, but too low to be appreciated by human ears under ordinary circumstances.

Toward the end of February the weather softened a little and the birds all left. This mild spell, however, was followed in a few days by a north-easter, accompanied with snow and sleet. Before it broke the birds returned again and sought their former shelter among the evergreens. This occurred on three successive occasions, but each time they returned in smaller numbers, and after the first departure none in the red plumage were seen. As late as the first of April a few were observed in the city, but they were evidently in transit and, calling loudly for company, seemed anxious to be off.

I think it quite probable that the peculiarities of the weather this season may have brought birds together which never saw each other before; at all events, it was a most unusual thing for us to see Pine Grosbeaks, Meadow Larks, Robins, Crossbills, Redpolls, Bluebirds, Song Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, all in one short excursion.

Being desirous of securing a few Grosbeaks where it could be done without breach of the city by-law, which forbids the use of fire-arms within the city limits, I made several excursions to the country during the severe weather for this purpose, and also to satisfy myself as to what birds were really wintering with us, and how they fared during the season of unusual severity.

This ride took in a circuit of twenty miles, and convinced us that though the number of resident birds to be met with in winter is very small, yet there is always the chance of meeting unexpectedly something very rare and desirable. We were also quite satisfied that while here the Pine Grosbeaks do not remain in the bush, but keep by the towns and villages where they find the berry-bearing trees and bushes, especially the mountain ash, which yields their favorite fare.

Bull. N. O. C., 3, July, 1888, p. 143-144.

Pinicola enucleator. PINE GROSBEEK. — This bird has been regarded as an exceedingly rare summer resident, some ornithologists even doubting that it nests within the limits of the Province. At nearly every camping ground, however, and at other points, we either saw or heard it, and a few miles below the mouth of the Kedgwick found a nest containing one egg and three young. The nest was placed in a crevice of a rock, under a projecting shelf, and was partly concealed by weeds. The location was a cool one, for it was within a few feet of the water, on moist rock, and well protected from the sun's rays. The outside diameter of the nest was four inches, inside diameter two and three quarters, and depth three. The outer part was made of frayed strips of cedar bark, which became finer towards the interior, the latter being lined with fine vegetable fibres, runners of *Fragaria vesca*. No hair or fur, feathers or down, could be noticed, nor did the structure evince any great degree of skill. Enlarge the diameter, wind a few hairs around the inside, daub a little clay here and there, and it would be mistaken for a Robin's nest. We packed the egg away in cotton wool until it could be blown, but when examined next morning it had already hatched. One male bird was collected.

Halifax
N.S.
1892
Dec 13
The Pine Grosbeaks have
all left here now.
Harry Austin Allen
Dec. 13, 1892.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 117-118.

Some Winter Birds of Nova Scotia. By C. H. Merrell.

17. *Pinicola enucleator*. PINE GROSBEEK.—Abundant during December and first two weeks of January, after which none were seen, with the exception of one pair seen at Shulee April 3. Nearly all were in the dull plumage of female and young male. I did not see a full plumaged adult male.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p. 252.

Ontario Bird Notes.

A specimen of the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) was taken at Whitby, Ont., Nov. 18, 1901, from a number that had been in that vicinity for some time, and was sent to me by a friend.—J. H. AMES, Toronto, Ontario.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 94.

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

63. *Pinicola enucleator*. PINE GROSBEEK.—Common in the spruce woods north of Aillik, beyond which the spruces dwindled into low bushes.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 29.

The Winter Fringillidæ of New Brunswick.—The list of birds given below includes the members of the Finch and Sparrow family which occur in New Brunswick during the months of December, January, and February. During these three months migration is as nearly at a standstill as at any time during the year. This family is represented by more species than any other family of birds, eleven species occurring here during the winter months, in greater or lesser numbers, being sometimes plentiful and even abundant and in other years rare.

The year 1901 has brought several surprises, the regular winter birds having been rather scarce, while two species which do not ordinarily occur here till late in March, and another not till mid May, have been more plentiful than any of the regular winter birds, except probably the Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Pinicola enucleator. PINE GROSBEEK.—This is a rare summer resident as far south as Fredericton, N. B. They come south in autumn in flocks varying in number from three or four to fifty. By people little acquainted with birds they are often mistaken for the Robin. In fact, they have been called 'Winter Robins' by some ornithologists.

Their habit of living in summer in coniferous forests, generally far from the haunts of man, causes them to have little fear of him when they come south, and one may approach quite closely to examine them. When they are feeding one may often get quite up to the tree in which they are resting.

Their food in winter consists of almost any of the persistent fruits. A favorite food is the seeds of the ground ash, which they pick from the trees and even from the ground where they have been blown by heavy winds. This winged fruit they dissect, taking only the meat. Small apples are also eaten. At times the pulp is cast away and only the seeds eaten, and again their crops have been found to contain the pulp.

They also feed upon the fruit of the sumach. Their never failing diet is the tips of fir twigs, the buds which produce the next season's growth. These are bitten off, and to reach them the birds at times hang nearly up side down, as the lithe limbs bend with the weight of the birds. When this food has been eaten the bill is covered with balsam. Elm buds also are eaten after they begin to swell in spring.

The flight of the Pine Grosbeak is slightly undulating, and when on the wing they often give forth a soft loud whistle by imitating which they may be induced to alight nearby.

Some ornithologists claim that this species nests far north, and so early in spring that the eggs are laid before the snow has gone. This may be true, but it is also true that they breed in New Brunswick in the month of July.

W. A. Moore, Fredericton, N. B. Auk, XIX, April., 1902, pp. 198-200.

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island
by Charles W. Townsend, M. D.
Auk, XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 173.

Pinicola enucleator leucura. PINE GROSBEEK.—Two adults
and two young were watched within a few yards near Neil's Harbor
on August 27. The female was feeding the young.

Early appearance of certain northern species at
Ottawa, Canada. G. Sifrig, Ottawa, Canada

The Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator leucurus*) was also unusually
early this year. The first ones were seen November 3 near the Rifle Range;
one was found dead on the Experimental Farm, November 5. At the same
time Mr. E. G. White reported them as extremely common near Pembroke,
Renfrew County. And from then till now, they have stayed here. At
first they were more common on the outskirts of the city, in sumac patches,
but now they have invaded the city, as they did three years ago, only then
they came somewhat later. They stay and feed on the many mountain
ash trees in the city. Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 111

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.

Part II, Land Birds. ¹ Auk, XI, 1894, 1-3.

Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 79.

189. **Pinicola enucleator leucura.** PINE GROSBEEK.—Irregular winter
migrant, sometimes abundant, usually from December to March. A
supposed hybrid of this species, taken January 22, 1890, is in the collection
of Mr. Ernest Seton, and has been fully described and figured by him.¹

Pinicola enucleator.

Lobster Lake, Piscataquis Co., Maine.

Very tame.

1899. The tamest or perhaps the stupidest bird I met was the
Sept. Pine Grosbeak. On a former trip in late October two males
had accompanied me some mile or more upon a tramp in the
woods. This year two females whom I wished to photograph
permitted themselves to be shaken one by one out of some
badly located mountain-maples into similar bushes which hap-
pened to please me better; and sat for their photographs at
4 ft. range. Maple seeds were perhaps an absorbing diet. Un-
fortunately my films are a blank - a dull day and the wrong
diaphragm.

Copied from a letter to Wm. Brewster

from Reginald C. Robbins, dated

Boston, Mass., Sept. 28, 1899.

Maine / Saco /

Pinicola enucleator

1888

Dec. 2

Mr. Goodale saw a flock of 6 in spruce woods & several other flocks flying overhead. None have been reported about Cambridge as yet.

40. *Pinicola enucleator*, L. (now *Pinicola*), INDIS
bird of erratic movements was observed at Kingfield in January, a small flock remaining for a considerable period. I am confident I saw a female on Boil Mountain in August. Did not observe it at all in June.

Maine (Bangor)

Pinicola enucleator

1888-9

Abundance in Dec. & Jan.

Dec. Jan

"We have lately had an influx of Redpolls, White-winged Yills & Pine Grosbeaks" (Mr. Hardy letter Jan'y 1. 1888)

Correspondence

Pine Grosbeaks are here in large flocks.
Wallace Homer.
Monson, Me.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 80

O. & O. XI, Oct. 1886, p. 146

Pinicola enucleator.—The Pine Grosbeaks are at present to be seen daily in the vicinity of Bangor, Me., and I believe they are present this winter in even greater numbers than were here three years ago in 1892-1893. The proportion of red males seems to be about one to every ten dull-colored birds. What is remarkable is the extremely early date at which I saw the first birds this fall. On Oct. 26, while hunting at Mud Pond, about ten miles from Bangor, I saw a flock of ten or fifteen Grosbeaks. To make doubly sure I shot two of them, but found, on coming to skin them, that they were moulting, and their feathers were so loose that it was impossible to save the skins. On dissection they proved to be young males. Their stomachs contained a mass of fir buds and seeds. They were next seen on Nov. 10, near Orono, about nine miles from Bangor, and presumably belonging to a different flock, as they were about five miles from the locality where the birds were previously seen. After this they were seen every few days, but I did not see any in the city of Bangor until the last week in December. From that time up to the present date, Feb. 17, I have seen them in the city nearly every day. Their chief food seems to be the seeds of crab-apples, and mountain ash berries.

O. W. Knight, Bangor, Maine.

Bangor (Me.) — *Bangor Me.*
The Pine Grosbeak, *Commercial*
Commercial BY MRS. GEO. F. GODFREY, *Jan. 25, 1896*

One day, three or more years ago, as I passed down the sidewalk beyond our gate I saw with amazement a red bird of great beauty, under the big spruce tree, and directly in my pathway. He let me come so near before he moved that he seemed to me almost a miracle. In the summer time, in the course of my life, I had seen an occasional linnet of a similar tint, but the linnet was a smaller bird and less richly colored. This glimpse of the beautiful red bird both puzzled and pleased me; it set me talking, but my friends who had not seen him, naturally made little response.

Some time after, coming home late in the afternoon, I saw a couple of tall elms with their bare branches ornamented with numbers of these perfect birds.

They seemed to have alighted there in order better to see the sunset. The sunlight which had left me quite dark and chill down in the street below, still glowed on them, seeming to keep them warm.

Yet another day, not long after, from my sitting-room window I had ample opportunity to watch more such birds, on a pair of sumac trees, just out below the terrace. I could look down upon them there, through all the blow and snow; but I cared less for these, because these were all dull-colored ones; I called them gray ones, and at the time supposed that this was a different species.

By this time I had learned to believe that they were grosbeaks.

Receiving by chance, the same year, one of the circulars sent out by Mr. William Brewster, asking for information as to the local presence or absence of the grosbeaks, etc., I answered his questions with the few facts I could give. He thanked me for them kindly at the time; and this year I was delighted to receive a copy of this paper of his, which was published in "The Auk" for July, 1895. It is entitled "A Remarkable Flight of Pine Grosbeaks."

Following this pleasing introduction Mrs. Godfrey greatly entertained her listeners by reading the paper of Mr. Brewster to which reference was made. This is contained in a pamphlet of a dozen pages, accompanied by two maps showing the geographical distribution throughout New England of the Pine Grosbeak during the winter of 1892-'93. The Com-

mercial much regrets that it has not space at command to-day, to republish this important contribution to ornithological science, entire. In it Mr. Brewster refers to the observations of Mr. Manley Hardy of Brewer, and on the margin Mrs. Godfrey adds this note: "Jan. 24, 1896.—On Wednesday morning of this week my husband saw one of these birds—glad to realize that the red bird still lives to sing his notes and show himself."

Mt. Washington, N. H.

Pinicola enucleator

1884

July 12

In a dense fir forest, nearly opposite the Half-way House I distinctly heard a Pine Grosbeak calling. It was several hundred yards below me and its notes came faintly to my ear but the mellow phe-per-phe was simply unmistakable. It called twenty or thirty times in succession but it would have taken me an hour to climb down to the spot & I reluctantly gave up all idea of pursuit.

New Hampshire (Milan)

Pinicola enucleator

1886

Dec. 5

"Pine Grosbeaks are quite plenty here now" (S. J. Gerrish in letter of Dec. 5, 1886.) [None have been reported in Mass. as yet, and I saw only a few at G. Umbagog in Oct.]

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.

Pine Grosbeak, (*Pinicola enucleator*).

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 14

Summer Birds of Presidential Range,
White Mts. A. P. Chadbourne

18. *Pinicola enucleator*. PINE GROSBK.—Two specimens seen, both of them in the low spruce and fir timber opposite the Half-way House (altitude, 3800 feet). One was a fine adult male in full song, seen July 12, 1884; the other an immature bird, seen July 13, 1886.

Aug. 4, April 1887. p. 104

Bird Notes, Central N. H. Winter '91-92
J. H. Johnson

Pine Grosbeaks, quite common.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 72

ARRIVALS. Pine Grosbeaks arrived Dec. 10th, and were seen at intervals till March 24th. On several occasions I saw flocks of forty or fifty individuals, but usually from ten to twenty in a flock. Females were much more abundant than males.

C. O. Tracy Taftsville, Vt.
O. & O. VII. Sept. 1883. p. 71

Notes from Taftsville, Vt.

O. & O. IX. APR. 1884. p. 46

Pine Grosbeaks first noted Jan. 11, they soon becoming abundant. For three weeks they were only to be met with in the forests, where they completely stripped the maple trees of "keys," the seeds of which formed their principal food. Then they suddenly came to the orchards and partook of what has in former years been their favorite food, frozen apple seeds. Males in the red plumage were quite common. Saw the last of them Feb. 11. Bird life has been very abundant here all Winter.—C. O. T.

The Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) has played a very conspicuous part among our winter visitors. It has appeared in such numbers and has been so universally distributed as to call forth in my remarks from disinterested persons who could not help but notice this large and handsome finch when it comes around their door at a time of the year when the trees seem to them so barren of bird life.

They were first noted Nov. 15th. Upon turning to my note book I find that the winter of 1888 and 1889 did not bring with it any of this species as far as my knowledge goes, while 1887 and 1888 gave me only three specimens.

When shot at, or otherwise disturbed, they will rise with a sharp cry of alarm and after circling around for a few minutes will often return to the same place from which they were started.

Cornwall, Vt. C. H. Parkhill
O. & O. XV. March. 1890. p. 43

Winter Birds of Southwestern Vt. 1885.

Pine Grosbeak,
A. S. Johnson, Hyderville, Vt.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63

Winter Birds of Southwestern Vt. 1885.

Of Pine Grosbeaks, I observed but a few in the first part of the Winter, and for some time back have not found a single bird. I have not found a specimen of Cross-bills.

A. S. Johnson, Hyderville, Vt.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63

Winter Birds of Southwestern, Vt. 1885.

There has been a noticeable absence of Pine Grosbeaks here this winter.

A. S. Johnson, Hyderville, Vt.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63.

PINE GROSBEAKS. We have received several further communications respecting the large numbers of these birds that have been seen this winter in various parts of New England, also several instances of their tameness. The large preponderance of females is also generally noted. O. & O. IX. Apr. 1884. p. 41

THE PINE GROSSBEAK IS HERE.

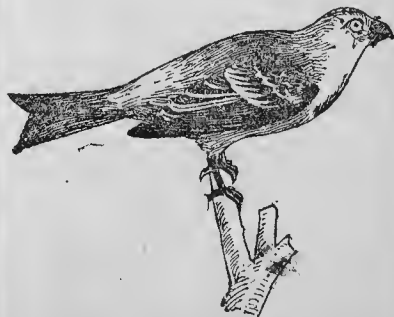
Boston Sunday Herald
Feb. 16, 1896.

Curiously Irregular Visitor from Northern Wilds.

**A Handsome Bird That Finds Our
Winters a Balmy Change of Scene—
They Appear Mysteriously at Inter-
vals of Several Years—Some Old
Habits and Characteristics.**

Who has seen the pine grossbeak? Not one in a hundred, or perhaps a lesser ratio of ordinary careless observers, has that felicity, and yet the bird is a striking object and is fairly abundant here about this winter, for the first time in three years. Franklin Park and the fens are not intended as places for a winter stroll, to say nothing of fields a little more remote, but these handsome, occasional visitors to this latitude light up the landscape wonderfully and would doubtless be looked for more if we only knew.

To the genuine lover of nature, especially bird nature, the pine grossbeak has most of the elements that go to make a rare and welcome incident in the year's calendar. Winter visitors in the bird line are few enough in all conscience. Snow-birds are small, numerous, pert and pret-



THE PINE GROSSBEAK.

ty, but the birds in winter generally cannot be called a nuisance in point of numbers, and most species are content to appear only in occasional pairs.

The pine grossbeak comes very near filling the eye. It is nearly as large as the robin. The young males and the females are of a slaty blue, a very rich lustrous shade, but nothing remarkable. The full grown male, however, is a bright red, with a strawberry tint, but exceedingly brilliant in lustre, and altogether he is a gorgeous bit of nature painting, all the more welcome that he is never seen here except when the winter's blast is bleakest.

The beak is very characteristic, and, to the amateur observer, it will, once it has been seen, prove ready means of identifying the bird. There will be found little difficulty in making the observation, for no tamer wild birds are to be found within the purlieus of civilization. Mr. Bradford Torrey of Wellesley essayed an experiment while watching a flock of them, last week, by walking up to a pair slowly. They allowed him to approach within a yard before making a stir.

The flocks, generally, will alight on trees in noisy and busy dooryards.

Mr. William Brewster of Cambridge, in his monograph on the bird, notes an observation in West Medford where the feathered, and, of course, strange, visitors, found the roof of a kennel a good enough residence, although the proper inhabitants were noisy and obstreperous neighbors. Mr. Brewster tells of his own experience snaring them in an ash tree. He stood underneath in plain view and fished for them with a slip noose at the end of a pole. They would allow the dangling string to brush against their bills without worrying. One that he had caught escaped, and he was amused and interested as well, to see that bird's frantic efforts to warn the flock of the danger.

This extraordinary tameness in a confessedly wild bird is explained by naturalists on the score that this grossbeak's home is in an uninhabited region, where they have but few enemies, and therefore have no need of precaution. They must at least come from a country where a man with a gun or a dog is unknown, and most of the data obtained point to Labrador as their native country. Such an inference answers well the conditions of the problem at least.

To the "birdmen" in this vicinity, as the ornithologists call themselves, every recurring autumn brings with it the question, "Shall we have any pine grossbeaks this year?" For these birds are somewhat coy and uncertain in paying their devours, however gracious they may be when they get here. In the winter of 1892-93 they were very abundant, coming in November and staying well through the winter. They had not been seen by naturalists before for three years, and have not been seen since till this winter.

Why they should come so irregularly is more than the naturalists will venture to explain. The last two visits had a certain regularity, coming as they did at intervals of three years, but that is no rule. The birds come along every year for a few years in succession, and then are missing for a period. It is supposed the extent southward of their migrations depends on the food supply up North, for it is not thought that severity of weather would make any difference to these bardy denizens of the wilds.

On the occasion of their visit in the winter of 1892-93, Mr. Brewster, the doyen of the ornithologists, sent circulars all over the country, asking for data on the pine grossbeak. From the data obtained he compiled his monograph and drew a map. He found evidence of their migration southward in the succession of dates of observations, and what was more interesting, found what he expressed on the map by heavy shading, that the path of the birds was along the eastern coast. The shaded portion of his map was like a zone 100 miles wide, with the coast as an eastern boundary. The southern limit was in central Connecticut. This peculiar path of the birds is one of the facts which point to Labrador as their native home and breeding place.

The birds are noted as winter migrants from the North, as far north as there are bird observers to note them at all. Mr. Torrey has seen them in the White mountains during the breeding season, but has seen none of their nests.

It would be idle to speculate on why the birds should find it necessary to come as far south as here for a living some years and not others, though when the reason is discovered it will doubtless be found another striking illustration of the finely adjusted balance of life in nature. The birds that come here seem to prefer the berries of the ash, and next to them the mountain ash, with maple buds and Norway spruce buds coming next on their menu.

All the foregoing trees may be presumed to be natives of Labrador, but why should there be any scarcity this winter of their favorite food and none last year, the year before and the year before that?

There was again the curious thing noted here that the pine grossbeaks came here this winter in November, as usual, and then disappeared, to return again last month. Has there been some drought or oversupply of rain, some failure on the part of ash berries and other food to mature, due to some slight or at least overlooked natural incident? Or are the birds slowly learning to migrate, forgetting the trick some years, to resume it when pinched a little more than usual up north?

These are the questions "bird men" ask, and incidentally try to find the answer by patiently noting every year just what they see, how they see it and when, putting it down where in after years the sum of the observations may be collated for a governing law.

Aside from their appearance in the winter, when any newcomer is a welcome novelty, the pine grossbeaks are not particularly interesting, according to Mr. Brewster, who is a professed student of birds, and perhaps requires something out of the ordinary to excite him. They make no fuss whatever, minding their own business—getting something to eat—with a pertinacity that is admirable as an object lesson in industry.

The reporter going out through Wellesley did not find them particularly interesting, but after learning something about the birds from Mr. Torrey, he found them on his way back a decidedly novel and interesting feature of the wintry landscape. They are all about us, not as numerous as on their last visit, but rather abundant, in the most thickly inhabited sections, wherever there are ash or maple trees, and will repay a moment's study, even in an aesthetic sense. In a scientific way the novice would have to rely a good deal on what is told him, but he can make a beginning in actual observation by noting down what he sees and no more. Later he may, in accordance with modern methods of investigation, compare his own fragments with the notes of others, and perhaps do a little toward solving the migrant vagaries of the pine grossbeak.

STRAY GROSBEAK.

Boston Advertiser
Feb. 6, 1896.
Wild Bird Twister Amidst Bare

Elm Branches.

The Language and the Chirps of Feathered Songsters.

All winter the walk down the village street has been a pretty dull affair. But this afternoon something did happen, though it wasn't a runaway or anything of that sort. Far ahead I heard from somewhere among the elm branches the loud, persistent twitter of some wild bird. I thought straightaway of the goldfinch, but it wasn't quite his voice. On I hurried, never glancing from the trees, lest my bird escape. I found him easily. The constant twittering had proved a useful guide. The bird looked exactly as large as a robin, but was grayish. A butcher-bird, appearing small for some reason? No—a deep notch in a short tail. The butcher-bird's is full and long.

Then it flashed upon me that the northern grosbeaks had come again, and that this was a stray one, piping for his vanished flock. He was not high up, and was on the sunny side of the maple, where I watched him long—a sort of big, clumsy goldfinch in winter plumage, with stubby beak. He bore the restless air of a stranger and his loud, unceasing twitter had a burden of homesickness in it.

"I wonder where I am now?" he seemed to be saying. "What if I should never find the rest of my family again? Could I ever get back to my northern forests alone? I don't like this country at all. It's far too civilized for me." So this young male grosbeak explained.

I had a long time to watch him and listen to the wild, rich voice. And when he flew, he went with a dash, rising and falling, till he was lost, a mote, in the hazy light of the afternoon sky.

So the pine grosbeak not only wears the winter garb of our goldfinch, but flies like him! But imitator though he be—what a bracing effect he has on the dull, winter-worn spirit! On wings the mind flies after him to the unknown scenes he will visit in his wanderings far from home.

Few grosbeaks were seen last winter, or the winter before, but everybody has heard of the famous flight of them during the winter of '92-'93. Not since 16 years had the like been seen. Early in January, '93, they came down in countless numbers and staid the winter out. The weather was moderate then as now.

Only a week ago, a party of bird-lovers, comparing notes, had remarked the absence of the grosbeaks. Now they are with us. Whether the great flight of '93 will be repeated remains to be seen. I found I was not the first to hail their appearance in Concord. The first friend I met said he had watched quite a flock of them early on Sunday morning, the 26th. Besides the dull, olive females, or young males, was one mature male, in splendid crimson plumage.

A village lad with a sharp eye for birds had seen three within the week. I long to come upon the grosbeaks close at hand, to see if the innocent creatures will allow themselves to be handled; for a not uncommon assertion to this effect is current among ornithologists.

Winter birds have been sadly neglected by students. We know who the winter birds are, but we haven't much idea how they spend their time—days and nights of all sorts, thaw, frost, wind, storm and zero weather. For somewhere they are through it all. The hardy, patient Thoreau, breathing the New England winter as no one did before, or has since, for mere love of nature, should have told us more. On those long miles he travelled through deep snow, "to keep his tryst with a favorite yellow birch or some friend among the pines," he saw plenty of jays, chickadees, downy woodpeckers, and nuthatches. But so do we, who belong to the prudent class he scorned—we who keep to the highway, where the walking is not reasonably comfortable afield.

Here is an observation about some winter birds, which has been rather late in coming to me, and may have some value for those who are trying to get acquainted with our birds. None of the bird-books, so far as I know, presents strongly enough this information, e. g.:

If in winter you see a flock of birds you take for goldfinches, look out. They may be something else. That sweet-voiced "E—ee?" while they feeding and perching, or "Sweet-eet—itee," as they go, in swinging, erratic flight, are not unmistakable. Even the pine grosbeak knows those tricks of voice and flight, yet he is so large that of course he will never be taken for a goldfinch, if seen.

But now, a trifle later in the winter, perhaps, when the little birch-seeds scale off from their catkins at last and shower down upon the snow, if the flock you see is feeding on these, and is very large, probably all of these birds, or most of them, are not goldfinches, but red pollinets. Males in good light, near to, will show reddish feathers pretty plainly, but others a little distance off will pass for goldfinches.

Goldfinches, I have often noticed, seldom at this time of year at least, go in flocks of more than six. This red-poll-goldfinch study is one in which you can't easily name all your birds without the gun. But no matter. Keep on trying. No matter how great the similarity in voices, the ear will triumph if you give it a chance.

Again, your supposed goldfinches may be feeding among pines. A sight of them through the opera-glass will usually settle the question. If they are pine siskins (finches), they will be rather slimmer than goldfinches and will lack the clear, light olive effect, being mottled.

In a walk past Walden Pond to Lincoln the other day the number of tree sparrows and slate-colored snow birds, or juncos, was remarkable. "Tseet!" "Tseet!" and "Chick-acht!" "Chickacht!"—and one was kept always busy to see where the russett or the drab-and-white finch flitted, now appearing, now hidden among the scrub oak and birch or catkined hazel of the roadside. The snow-birds were wild and liked heedlessly pecked in the middle of the road, heedlessly pecked in the middle of the road, content to leave on a perilously near approach.

Sunset came, cold and clear, while the big red lamps of Mars showed early in the east, the new moon over a ridge, blue-shadowed against the yellow west. All along the roadway the delicate birches rise in wintery beauty. A meadow brook catches the last glow. The bushes are snug down there in its hollow. So the tree-sparrows think, and they go "Tseep! tseep!" peeping their satisfaction as they troop in from all sides. Sound your chilly chirp. Some day not far off the summer song sparrow will brood down there amid the warmth and leafiness.

Boston Advertiser
Feb. 6, 1896. Kate Tryon.

1893

Panicola cucullata

Cambridge,
Belmont

Feb. 16 ♀ shot by Chubburn in Cambridge
" 17 ♂ " " C. R. Lamb " Belmont
" 24 ♂ " " Geo. " " "

note book C. R. Lamb.

March 3 - Large flock seen in

Belmont & ♂ ♂ shot by Lamb.

note book C. R. Lamb.

Pinicola enuchator

Mr. Job writes Purdie that he saw a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks during a warm spell in December.

Pinicola enuchator

Charles R. Lumb saw two Pine Grosbeaks to-day in the willows at the foot of Appleton St. They are the first that I have heard of here this season.

Pinicola caudensis

arrival in Mass.

A flock of about a dozen Pine Grosbeaks came into father's garden to-day. I heard them whistling & looking out saw one sitting in an apple tree. It soon flew to the ground where the others quickly assembled about it seemingly coming from a cedar tree. They hopped about awhile & at length whirled off. All were in the gray plumage.
The winter has been a very

Near Boston, Mass
Dec. 1881

Cambridge
Nov. 1

Cambridge, Mass
Jan'y 12, 1881

Pinicola enuchator

Mr. Job writes Purdie that he saw a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks during a warm spell in December.

Pinicola enuchator

Charles R. Lumb saw two Pine Grosbeaks to-day in the willows at the foot of Appleton St. They are the first that I have heard of here this season.

Cambridge, Mass
Nov. 15 - 1882

Pinicola canadensis

arrival in Mass.

A flock of about a dozen Pine Grosbeaks came into father's garden to-day. I heard them whistling & looking out saw one sitting in an apple tree. It soon flew to the ground where the others quickly assembled about it seemingly coming from a cedar near. They hopped about awhile & at length whirled off. All were in the gray plumage.
The winter has been a very

Cambridge, Mass
Jan'y 12, 1883

Pinicola enucleator

Mr. Job writes Purdie that he saw a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks during a warm spell in December.

Pinicola enucleator

Charles R. Leland saw two Pine Grosbeaks to-day in the willows at the foot of Appleton St. They are the first that I have heard of here this season.

Pinicola caudensis

late arrival in Mass.

Amherst, Mass
Jan'y 12, 1884

A flock of about a dozen Pine Grosbeaks came into father's garden to-day. I heard them whistling & looking out saw one sitting in an apple tree. It soon flew to the ground where the others quickly assembled about it seemingly coming from a cedar near. They hopped about awhile & at length whirled off. All were in the gray plumage.
The winter has been a very

Pinicola enuchator

Mr. Job writes Purdie that he saw a small flock of Pines Grosbeaks during a warm spell in December.

Pinicola enuchator

Charles R. Lamb saw two Pine Grosbeaks to-day in the willows at the foot of Appleton St. They are the first that I have heard of here this season.

perhaps one or two or birds
are common & I have heard
of only a few Redpolls.
No Grosbeaks have been
previously reported & I am
very glad that we now have
both here. It is common
for them to visit us for
the first time as late
in the season.

Jan. 17. Having a trip to Belmont
to-day I found their
birds near Belmont there &
saw two there before. I shot
one very fine ad. ♂. During
the past few days they
have been reported from all
directions, and many adults
have been seen. Mr. J. Purdie
writes that hundreds were
seen east of Providence (R.I.)
on Jan'y 15th & three ad. ♂ shot
they are in large flocks & migrate
to mountain at times as usual.

Pinicola enucleator

Cambridge, Mass
Feb. 22nd - Mar. 1, 1884.

Feb. 1st. A heavy snow-storm yesterday brought back the Pine Grosbeaks in abundance or at least brought them into the town again. I heard them, at various times during the forenoon, about our house. They were seen and heard by both Haub and Chadbourne in Cambridge and Mr. Purdie noted them at Newton. I have seen none in Cambridge for several weeks, but on Feb. 22 observed five in Burlington, Mass.

10. Pinicola enucleator. - Feb. 1 - 7 - 8 - 14 - 23 (1885)
E. Mass. 1885. ^{Chap. 30 Ch. 20} 1 20 5

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.
H. K. Job.

The Pine Grosbeaks were later than the other birds in putting in an appearance. The first, as far as I know, came on November 23rd; still they were scarce for a couple of weeks, but from that time up to the middle of February they were one of our most common birds. They then grew scarcer, but were seen until March 10.

* 1881 Boston and Vicinity.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, July. 1888, p. 148.

From Eastern Mass. M. A. Frazar.

A strange thing was that, crossbills being so abundant, pine grosbeaks did not show up in equal numbers, for their food is quite similar, as far as we know, and we often have them here when hardly any other northern birds visit us. A few were here early in the season, but, as far as the writer's observations went, they left entirely as soon as the crossbills came.

For. & Strm, April 24, 1890. p. 268

Brief Notes.

Pine Grosbeaks were very plenty the last of December. My brother and myself saw over 40, in scattered flocks of 3 to 14, at Ponkapog, Mass. J. H. Bowles.

At Dedham, Mass., they are reported in numbers during the first three weeks in January.

O. & O. Vol. 19, Jan. 1893 p. 15

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass. 1885. Charles H. Andros.

26; my brother reports a Pine Grosbeak.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 2

Birds of Bristol County, Mass. F. W. Andros.

Pinicola enucleator (Linn.), Pine Grosbeak. visitant, irregular in appearance.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

The crossbills, never very numerous, also feed largely on coniferous seeds, and a year or two ago I shot one which was eating the seeds of wild rose tips, and I have seen the Pine Grosbeak feeding on the same article.

by Joyce
H. White
orig. and 17 Oct
1892, p. 148-57

Notes from Belchertown, Mass. J. W. Jackson

Pine Grosbeaks seen all the season.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Mar. 1893 p. 45.

Pinicola enucleator at Worcester, Mass.—A flock of sixteen Pine Grosbeaks, containing a few bright males, was reported in the northern part of this city Jan. 15, 1896. For a little over a month the Grosbeaks were seen in different parts of the city, one or two or a half dozen at a time, feeding upon mountain-ash berries and seeds of maple and Scotch elm. The last seen was on Feb. 21. But few bright males were seen, the largest number being reported on Feb. 19, when a flock of fifteen contained "several brilliant specimens."—HELEN A. BALL, Worcester, Mass.

Brief Notes.

A few flocks of Pine Grosbeaks were reported at Readville, Mass., early in February.

O. & O. Vol. 17, Mar. 1892 p. 47

NOTES FROM DANVERS, MASS.—The birds of this section, during the last month, have been driven quite close to the houses by the fierce storms and intense cold. A trip through the Pine and Hemlock groves will reveal a large number of our resident birds roosting upon the branches with their feathers puffed out to such an extent you can hardly recognize them as our sprightly little birds. This is the first Winter for a great many years that the Robin has not been seen about our woods. The Crows have come within a few feet of the house several times to feed upon the apples that were left upon the trees at harvest time. On the 3d day of February, I was called from my work to see a strange bird which was picking away at a Locust tree at the back of the house. I recognized it at once as a Golden-winged Woodpecker, (*Colaptes auratus*, Swain.) I have met with this bird so often for several years and having had it described to me by different persons so many times, I do not hesitate to call it one of our resident birds, although quite a number of them migrate by the first of November. Small flocks of the Pine Grosbeaks have at different times put in their appearance. The Snowbirds, (*Junco hyemalis*, Scclater,) have

been quite scarce here this Winter, and what flocks I have met with have been quite small. Their travelling companions, the Tree Sparrows, (*Spizella monticola*, Baird,) have been more abundant. On the 7th of February an unusually large flock of Yellowbirds, (*Astragalinus tristis*, Cab.) settled upon the weeds by the side of the road, making the air resound with their low Winter warbling, or notes. The Redpolls, (*Aegithus linarius*, Cab.) have been seen quite frequently since the middle of December; the flocks for the most part have been small and scattered. Along the coast the Shore Larks have been seen in large numbers fearlessly picking up stray oats, &c., along the sides or the roads. The Butcher Bird has been quite abundant, especially in the cities, where it is lazily obtaining the English Sparrows for food.—Andrew Nichols, Jr. O. & O. X, Mar. 1885. p. 47

The Republican.

SPRINGFIELD, SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 1904.

The pine grosbeak, a northern bird, which during the colder months, in occasional years, comes down as far south as this latitude, and whose presence in small numbers in the suburbs of Springfield has been noted since October, has within the last few days appeared in the center of the city. This is a bird about the size of a robin and resembling it somewhat in coloring and action. One can always know that it is a grosbeak year by the numerous items published in the newspapers during the winter months mentioning the occurrence of robins in different places. A Westfield man makes the claim that there are several robins in a marsh between that town and this city, who have been there all winter, notwithstanding the severity of the weather.

THE SPRINGFIELD UNION

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 4, 1864.

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Tuesday, February 16, 1904.

TWO COLONIES OF GROSBEAKS HERE

VISIT ATTRACTS MUCH ATTENTION.

Twenty-Eight Years Ago Birds
Swarmed in Springfield and
Some Were Snared.

Pine grosbeaks, rare visitor from the woods of the farther North, have swarmed down upon Springfield this Winter for the first time in a half dozen years and, with a boldness seldom seen, have ventured into the heart of the city itself. Bird lovers have braved the cold and snows with eagerness to see the visitors. Since the middle of January, a colony of the birds has made its headquarters in the pines of the Springfield cemetery and another colony is reported from the pines along the Boston road.

The birds are large, almost the size of a robin and, in full plumage, of a warm red on back and breast. In the young males and the females, the red of the back is dull, almost brown, thus heightening the resemblance to the robin and these birds might easily be mistaken for each other by the casual observer.

The appearance this season of the pine grosbeak in large numbers, has attracted a great deal more attention than has any of their former visits, which shows how much more popular interest there is in bird life than formerly.

These boreal visitors come down to us from the North, on an average, once in six years, perhaps one time in their generation. At the period of their greatest visitation here, during the memory of man, which was in 1875, they swarmed into the very center of Springfield, and for a number of weeks the city was alive with them. At that time a person could hardly look out of a window without observing a flock of grosbeaks. Many of them, at that time, were snared and kept in confinement, which condition of life did not disturb them, for they soon were tame and the males became good singers. A number of them were exhibited at a great poultry and pet stock show, which was held at the City hall the following Winter. At one place, where a female was caught and kept in captivity, two successive years at the breeding time, she built a nest and deposited a set of eggs, but she would not permit a male of her kind to enter her cage.

About 10 years ago we had a grosbeak season, when William Brewster of Cambridge, probably the best informed ornithologist in New England, made an exhaustive study of the migration and habits of these birds. He sent out numerous circulars to people all over the Eastern States, seeking information relative to the dates of appearance and departure of the grosbeaks, expecting to ascertain the path of their migration and facts about their food and habits. He concluded that their movements were governed by the abundance or absence of food, that they would remain in any locality when daily fed with hemp seed. He also found that in their wild state, they would occasionally indulge in harmless squabbles, but in the main they were unmistakably gentle and amiable in disposition, social and affectionate in their relation to their own kind, and in their attitude toward man, almost wholly free from fear or even suspicion.

An Unusual Occurrence of the Pine Grosbeak in Rhode Island.—

Visitations of the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*) into southern New England and the Middle Atlantic States have been probably more widespread during the past winter than at any other time since the severely cold season of 1903-04. In view of this fact the remarkably late northward flight of a flock of Grosbeaks observed at Providence, R. I., may be of special interest. Early in the morning of April 28, 1911, I saw fourteen Pine Grosbeaks on Neutaconkanut Hill, Providence. Several were sitting in a large oak tree over a swamp, and others on the bare, highest branches of saplings nearby. The birds allowed me to approach very near, and, while I looked on, four of them flew to the wet, springy ground below in order to drink. This was within thirty feet of where I stood. Six or seven of the members of the flock were males in the red plumage.

So far as records inform, April 28 is an unusual if not an unprecedented date for Pine Grosbeaks in this latitude. In southern New England they have generally been observed to linger no later than March; and April 10 is given as a normal date of last occurrence in Manitoba.—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *Brown University, Providence, R. I.*
Arch. XCVIII, July 1911, p. 369-370.

Portland, Conn., Nov. 4, 1903.

I have two Pine Goshawks
that were taken here yesterday.
Some were seen Nov. 1st.
- very early for this section.

J. K. S.

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS

ST. ANDREW
1903
CONN.



Mr. Walter Deane,
29 Brewster St.,
Cambridge,
Mass.

An Attempt to Breed the Pine Grosbeak in Captivity.—The last week in January, 1917, I heard of a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks or "Canada Robins" as they are called locally, in a grove of red cedars about a mile and a half from my home. The morning of January 28 with bright sunshine and thermometer hovering around zero, I took a bamboo fish pole about eight feet long with a short stout piece of string and slip knot that would hold open three or four inches and went fishing for them. I found a flock of at least twenty-five Pine Grosbeaks *all* in the gray plumage and about the same number of Evening Grosbeaks, the first ever noted here. It was a beautiful sight to see half a dozen of each kind feeding on cedar berries from the same branch. The Pine Grosbeaks were very tame, as is usual when in this latitude, but I could only approach within about thirty feet of the Evening Grosbeaks when they would go off in a startled whirl like a bunch of English Sparrows.

I soon secured three of the Pine Grosbeaks, one of which was much darker than the other two and I judged it to be a female. Returning home I put them in a cage 24 x 18 x 12 inches which I placed in the living room. The birds quickly became contented and in a few days would take hemp seed from my hand or mouth. The second week in February the two brighter colored birds began to sing a low sweet warbling song and at other times kept up a pleasing conversation.

Wishing to keep a pair, male and female, I sent one of the singing birds to the Bronx Zoo where it died in a week or two and was dissected and found to be a male. About the middle of June my singer dropped dead from the perch one morning, and dissection proved it a female. The remaining bird appeared lonesome and for about a week often made the whistling call. The cage was then hung outside the kitchen window over which a grapevine was growing, with a wide board over the top to keep off the rain and within a few days the bird began singing with even more vigor and vim than the others had shown. The first week in July I noticed her hopping about the cage with bits of grass in her beak trying to fasten them somewhere so I placed a wire bowl in an upper corner and put in nesting material—shredded bark, sticks, grass and a few feathers, with which she at once began to fill the bowl and within a week had formed a very good nest. In this on July 9 she deposited an egg and by July 15 she had completed the clutch of four perfectly typical eggs. Being infertile I had to add them to my collection.

During the nesting period the bird would eat from one to three moderate sized angleworms a day. It did not bolt them down after the manner of the robin but bit off small pieces and chewed them before swallowing. Cuttle bone was also in demand. This feeding continued for perhaps three weeks and again during the moult in September and October. At other times the bird would take no animal food although insects and worms of various kinds were offered. Its staple food was canary millet, rape, oats and a little sunflower seed with plenty of fruit and succulent grass, lettuce, cabbage and apple cores. The past winter the cage has hung outside with a hood of transparent celluloid to cover the upper two thirds for shelter and wind break. I hoped that the Pine Grosbeaks would visit us again and that my lady bird by calling might help me to obtain a mate for her. None visited this part of Connecticut the past winter, however, and I think but very few came below latitude 45°. I still have hopes of breeding them in captivity as they very soon become tame and contented with cage life. My bird did not mind the cold of the zero week during which she had an extra allowance of hemp and sunflower seed and a bit of suet. She began singing February 1 and at present writing, March 24, 1918, is singing much of her time, using her whistling call notes when Robins or Starlings fly near. Her song is identical with that of the male and rather reminds one of the song of their pigmy representative the Purple Finch but lacks the ringing quality.

If I obtain a male to mate with my bird another year and should succeed in breeding them, there are several experiments to be made. One is to see if birds raised here and given their liberty would remain throughout the year and another in regard to color changes in the male.—GEO. M. MARCKERFS, *Sharon, Conn.*

Auk XXXV. July. 1918. pp. 355-356.

^{Auk, XIII, April, 1896, p. 175.}
The Pine Grosbeak at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—The Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) have been very numerous in the grounds surrounding Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, this winter. They were attracted perhaps by the large number of spruce trees growing there which seem to offer them very palatable food. They have created quite a havoc among these trees. Early in the winter as I was walking among the evergreens, I found the snow literally carpeted with tips of the spruce trees and fragments of buds and seeds. On examining the twigs I found that the buds were eaten and that there were indications of pecking at the points of separation. I had never seen the ground so covered, and perceived at once that there was some unusual cause for such devastation. I looked about among the trees but saw only a pair of Kinglets, and I could not in conscience charge them with such wholesale destruction. I therefore suspected the Pine Grosbeaks, and my suspicion was later confirmed by my catching them in the very act. This flock has consisted almost entirely of young males and females, as is usually the case. One red male was noted early in January feeding with the flock, and later another was found dead.

The weather has not been continuously severe, and the ground has not been covered with snow more than a week at a time. The Grosbeaks are still here, March 13.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) has also been seen this winter. It is an uncommon visitant in this vicinity.—CAROLINE E. FURNESS, *Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.*

J. and O. 315. Pine Grosbeaks [sic]. By H. Gray. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 51.—Several flocks of "*Pinicola enucleator*" seen in summer at Albion, N. Y. N. B. —At p. 61 this note is stated to relate to the "Pine Goldfinch, *Chrysomitris pinus*."

Birds of the Adirondaek Region.
C. H. Merriam.

54. *Pinicola enucleator* (Linn.) Vieillot. PINE GROSBEEK.—Tolerably common winter visitant from the North, but does not occur every winter.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct, 1881, p. 229

WINTER BIRDS have been more abundant than usual thus far. Some friends of mine secured eight Pine Grosbeaks, among them two males. I have seen a small flock of them in this town. Shrikes, Redpolls and Snow Buntings are quite abundant.—L.

R. Rich, *Saratoga, N. Y.*
O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1883. p. 71

The Pine Grosbeak.

(*Pinicola enucleator.*)

In the March number of your magazine I notice some statements regarding the Pine Grosbeak. I have been in Potsdam as teacher in the State Normal School in this place since the Fall of '72, and not until last Winter did I ever notice or have my attention called to this bird in this locality. Last winter I mounted six females and one male. There seems to be a great scarcity of the males. A number of my students shot and mounted specimens, and I believe not one secured a male. There were a number of flocks that seemed to quarter in and near town nearly all winter. They, without exception, were always found about apple trees—crabapples ordinarily—eating the frozen fruit on trees. This winter I have only seen one flock, and have heard of only two. I got a female this winter; but for a cap being imperfect I should have had a male. There are usually about a dozen in a flock, seldom more. They were very tame and by some of the citizens of the place taken for Robins. They seem to be in most excellent condition, at least all of mine were. When these birds came here last winter no one knew them, and many asked me about them. Getting a shot at them I was more than pleased to find them a bird that was entirely new to me, a pleasure which no one but a person interested appreciates. My little boy, seven years old, was out with me this winter one day, and some birds flying over our heads, he exclaimed, "Oh! papa, there are some Pine Grosbeaks; shoot me that pretty red one," referring of course to the male. No parent

it seems to me realizes how much good comes from making a collection of birds; not only for their own personal good but for their children or students. My little boy above mentioned, can by the song distinguish almost all of our birds. I wish in your excellent little paper you would urge this work upon your subscribers. Here lies a field of exact knowledge that, except by specialists, is but little worked. — *W. Mann, Teacher of Science in State Normal School, Potsdam, N. Y.*

O. & O. IX, Apr. 1884, p. 40-41.

Auk, XIII, April, 1896, p. 75.

Pinicola enucleator in Westchester County, N. Y.—Some two miles northeast from Sing Sing, N. Y., on February 12, 1896, I shot a male Pine Grosbeak in high plumage. The bird was in one of a few pine trees in a considerable grove of cedars. Careful search in the vicinity failed to reveal others. — L. S. FOSTER, *New York City*.

The Pine Grosbeak on Long Island, N. Y.— It is so rarely that Long Island is favored with the presence of the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator canadensis*) that their occurrence here in considerable numbers during the past winter is worthy of record. During the last twenty five years there have been few winters that I have not spent considerable time in the field at this place, but I have never been able to meet with this bird, to be certain of its identity, until the past winter. I have heard of a few instances of its occurrence on Long Island in former years, as at Miller Place, Cold Spring, Middle Island, and Terryville. At Miller Place, on November 26, 1903, three Grosbeaks were noted in an orchard near my house, and later a red male was seen flying westward. I was told of a "flock of Butcher Birds" that were seen here about a week prior to this date. From the description given me I have little doubt that they were Pine Grosbeaks. While perched on the top of a tree, and in their undulating flight, they bear a strong resemblance to shrikes, and if seen singly by one unfamiliar with them might readily be mistaken for these birds. From November 13 to 25, I was away from home and cannot tell at what time they began to arrive. I am inclined to think that some birds I heard early in the month were Grosbeaks, but I was not then familiar with their notes and did not recognize them. November 27, I left Miller Place and did not have another opportunity to look for them until December 4, when I met with a small flock in a cedar grove not far from my house. In this grove, from this time on until about the middle of February, Grosbeaks could be found in varying numbers. The last one was seen on February 28. On February 1 and 6 they were more plentiful than at any other time, and appeared to be migrating. Not more than two per cent were in the red plumage. Their food consisted almost entirely of the seeds of the red cedar. The seeds were nearly always crushed before they were swallowed, only the inner portions of the seeds being eaten.

Occasionally a few would come into the orchard and pick among the frozen apples left on the trees. While feeding they were very gentle and I had no difficulty in catching several in a small scoop-net, made of fine wire, attached to a pole. Four that I have in a large cage are very fond of sunflower and hemp seeds. They will eat canary and rape seed but prefer that of the sunflower. Millet seed they will not eat if they can get any other food. They appear to have four distinct sets of notes,— a low querulous note uttered while feeding; another, somewhat resembling that of the Goldfinch, uttered both on the wing and while sitting in the trees; and a longer drawn whistle that reminds one of a Cedar-bird. This appears to be their usual call-note when restless and alarmed. Several times I heard an attempt at a song, consisting of three or four finch-like notes. During the winter I met with a few Grosbeaks at Rocky Point, and heard of their presence at several other places on Long Island.—

A. H. HELME, *Miller Place, N. Y.*

Auk, XXI, Apr., 1904, p. 280-281.

The Pine Grosbeak on Long Island, N. Y.— After years of waiting I am at last able to positively record this species on Long Island. Three specimens were seen at Southold, February 2, 1904, by Mrs. A. F. Lowerre who is an unusually careful observer. Her report is as follows: "Tuesday morning I saw three birds in a neighbor's honeysuckle. Took my opera glass and went close to study them. Found they were Pine Grosbeaks, either all females or young male birds. There were no carmine-red adult males to be seen. I never saw or heard of them here before."

February 12 Mrs. Lowerre wrote: "I saw the three grosbeaks again yesterday; the only places they seem to visit are the honeysuckle vines." Subsequently Mrs. Lowerre reports that she did not see the grosbeaks after February 11.

All Giraud says of them is: "In the autumn of 1827, large flocks of pine grosbeaks visited Long Island. . . . Since that period until the present year (1844), I have not seen or heard of its occurring on Long Island."—

WILLIAM DUTCHER, *New York City.*

Auk, XXI, Apr., 1904, p. 281.

Bird Notes from Shelter Island, Long Island, N. Y.—

PINE GROSBK (Pinicola enucleator).— A few of these rare visitors from the north have been about this winter. A single one was seen November 28, 1903. I received a pair to mount, shot on Dec. 22, the male in the full red-washed plumage, the female gray. They were found feeding around a garbage heap near the back door of a dwelling house, and were very tame. Two more were seen near the same place, but not taken, on January 3, 1904.

Willis W. Worthington Shelter Island Heights, N. Y.,

Auk, XXI, Apr., 1904, p. 287.

First Plumages -- Brewster.

Pinicola enucleator.

Under the head of *Coturniculus henstowi* (Vol. III, No. 3, p. 118), I made the generalization that, "with the single exception of *Chrysomitris tristis*, this is the only species of the *Fringillidae*, so far as I am aware, in which the young in first plumage are entirely immaculate beneath." That statement I now find must be considerably modified. At the time of writing it entirely escaped my notice that I had previously described a third unspotted species (*Pinicola enucleator*), and that still a fourth, namely, *Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*, remarked upon in the same paper as in transitional condition, was also plain.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan, 1879, p 46.

First Plumages -- Brewster.

Pyrrhuloxia sinuata: See under

Pinicola enucleator

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan, 1879, p 46.

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane,

9. *Pinicola enucleator*. PINE GROSBEEK. — In Naumann's "Naturgesch. der Vögel Deutschl." (Vol. IV, p. 410), it is stated that a white or whitish variety has been described, but that it is of very rare occurrence. He says an example is figured in Sparrmann's "Mus. Carls." (plate 17), under the name *Loxia flamenco*, and is introduced by Gmelin in his "Linn. Syst. Nat." (Vol. II, pt. 2, p. 864), as a species.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 27

Auk, XIII, April, 1896, p. 176

1/5
Abnormal Plumage of a Pine Grosbeak.—On the 30th of December, 1895, I took a specimen of the female Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) at Shelburne, N. H. On looking the bird over carefully I noticed an unbroken ring of feathers, like those of the upper back in color and texture, extending over the left shoulder, where the band measures .75 of an inch in width, and continuing across the breast and terminating on the right shoulder, its width having decreased .20 of an inch. The band is composed of thirty-three feathers, that is, beginning to count as soon as they are out of their normal position on the back, and are of much deeper slate color than those above or below them; the centre of each feather is tinged with chrome yellow and they are longer than the surrounding ones, standing out almost like a ruff. The flesh of the neck was perfectly normal and the bird apparently had never been injured. I have the specimen now in my collection.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

Auk, XIII, July, 1896, p. 266.

Correction.—In the Auk, Vol. XIII, No. 2, for April, page 176, under 'Abnormal Plumage in a Pine Grosbeak,' "its width having decreased .20 of an inch" should read "its width having decreased to .20 of an inch." On page 178, the paragraph on the Winter Wren, under 'Three Winter Notes from Longwood, Massachusetts,' "and on the 25th shot, I think, the same bird" should read "and on the 25th of December shot, I think the same bird."—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

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VOL. XI.

JANUARY, 1894.

NO. I.

HYBRID *PINICOLA ENUCLEATOR* + *CARPOD-
ACUS PURPUREUS*.

BY ERNEST E. THOMPSON.

Plate I.

THE EARLY part of 1890 is remembered at Toronto as the great Grosbeak season. During January, February and March, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks appeared in such numbers as were never before seen. On 22d January a small red Grosbeak was taken from a flock of Pine Grosbeaks by Mr. William Cross, and was brought to me for identification. Its general appearance recalled *Carpodacus cassinii*, but having no specimen of this for comparison, I sent the bird to Dr. J. A. Allen, who pronounced it "clearly a hybrid between the common Purple Finch and the Pine Grosbeak." The specimen was subsequently seen by Mr. Robert Ridgway and M. A. Suchetet, the French student of avian hybrids, and all concur in pronouncing it a most interesting and undoubted hybrid between the species named.

The only question raised by M. Suchetet is—was it born in a state of nature? For on that the chief interest would turn. To this I reply, the deep red tints that are found on the Pine Gros-

Birds' Nesting in Lapland.

A. C. Chapmann.

About six miles north of Pulmak, and about midnight, I flushed a strange looking pair of birds from an "ene" (juniper) bush. As they went away I mistook them for Green Woodpeckers. I shot one of them as it glided away with undulating flight, and my surprise was great to pick up a Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*). Just then Trinus cried out that he had found a nest, and on my coming up, there was the pretty wickerwork nest with two eggs of the Pine Grosbeak. On looking about we soon saw the other bird sitting callously quite close to us, and she completed the series. The occurrence of this species north of the Arctic circle had not previously, according to Professor Collett (Orn. North. Norway, p. 22), been satisfactorily established. The plumage of the Pine Grosbeak appears to have always been an unsettled problem so I will merely state that both birds, male and female, were of the greyish-green type, the male having rather more of the orange color than the female. It is clear that, although the scarlet dress is considered by some to be the adult plumage, this does not necessarily imply that an immature bird cannot breed; for if such were the case here was a clear instance of two immature Pine Grosbeaks having a nest and eggs. The birds were roosting within twenty yards of their nest, and when skinning the female I took a third egg from her oviduct. I afterwards found near Pulmak a male in full scarlet plumage paired and nesting with an ash-grey female, and a third nest was occupied by two greyish-green birds. The nest of the Pine Grosbeak decidedly resembles that of the Bullfinch, being constructed externally of an extremely light network of thin Birch twigs firmly interlaced into each other. This substructure is overlaid by a lining of fine stiff grass, distinctly visible through the network of sticks from below. On pulling the lining to pieces an odd horsehair could be detected. The nest was placed in a small Birch tree, about six feet from the ground, and very open. I was rather surprised to find the Pine Grosbeak breeding here, as I thought it was confined to the Pine districts. But I found several pairs of this bird breeding around Pulmak, where is not a sign of anything save stunted Birch and Willow, and from their crops I took birch-catkins.

1886. p. 109-110.

Birds and Eggs from Magdalen Ids,
July. St. Lawrence --- Wm Brewster.

2. *Pinicola enucleator*. PINE GROSBEEK.—The Pine Grosbeak was apparently rare among the Magdalens for Mr. Frazar met with only five individuals, four of which were secured. The first pair, taken June 18, on Amherst Island, evidently had a nest among some low spruces, for both birds showed unmistakable signs of anxiety when the spot was approached, and the female proved, on examination, to be incubating. The female of the second pair, shot June 29, on Grindstone Island, had laid all her eggs but one, which, although in the oviduct and of full size, was unfortunately without a shell. Mr. Frazar searched long and carefully for both nests but without success.

Our knowledge respecting the breeding of this Grosbeak, as found in America, is so very imperfect that the above data are both interesting and valuable. The inference is that the eggs are laid late in the season, a fact which the analogy furnished by kindred species would scarcely have suggested.

Habits.

Cambridge, Mass
Jan'y 20, 1884

Twenty-seven Pine Grosbeaks in a mountain ash by father's library window, some with yellow crowns & rumps, some coppery red on these parts, but not a single really red ♂ in the whole number.

They were sprinkled pretty evenly over the tree at the ends of the branches, each perching just above a bundle of berries which, of course, were the attraction. Two or three times a minute the bird would swing downward (after hanging like

A Day After Pine Grosbeaks.

As I was driving through the mountains the latter part of February, I came across a flock of Pine Grosbeaks in some heavy spruce woods, the first I have seen here in two years. Not having any gun with me at the time, I decided on the first pleasant day to return on a collecting trip.

So on March 4th I drove over. The day was warm and bright, and birds were more active and plentiful than on any previous day this winter. Black-capped Chickadees were very common, and the crows that stay here the year round had received some noisy reinforcements from the South. I started up a few Ruffed Grouse, and occasionally saw, on a stump or dead tree, a Hairy or Downy Woodpecker, or a White-bellied Nuthatch, while from the top of a dead pine I secured a handsome specimen of the Great Northern Shrike, but the birds I came after were minus. The walking was very fatiguing, there being two feet of snow on the ground, and although I searched the woods over carefully, I did not see a single Pine Grosbeak. As I was returning home discouraged and thinking what a wild goose chase

it was to come so far and expect to find the Grosbeaks in the same woods, I saw a small flock in an orchard, feeding on the seeds of frozen apples. They were very still and unless a sharp lookout was kept one would be apt to pass them by unnoticed. The birds when alarmed would utter a faint whistle and fly into some evergreen woods where it was impossible to find them, as they would conceal themselves in the densest part of a tree, close to the main stem. After a little while they would venture out again to feed, and the snow beneath the trees was covered with pulp from the apples opened by their powerful bills. I was fortunate in securing two handsome males and three females.

A. H. B. Jordan.

Willsborough, N. Y.

O. & O. XIV. May, 1889 p. 74-75

The Pine Grosbeak in Michigan.

Of the winter birds of Michigan there are eighty-five or more, and in Kalamazoo County about 42° north latitude and 85° west longitude there are sixty-eight species known to be found in winter. These are divided into permanent residents, sixteen in number; half-hardy numbering thirty-two, and winter visitants twenty. Under this last division are embraced many birds, which are not constant in their visitation, and which may be recorded as unusual, or stragglers from the north. Of these irregular visitors, none are more uncertain in their appearance than the Pine Grosbeak. It may be that the species is a winter sojourner in our state each year, but this has not, as yet, been proven. However the records show that the bird has occurred during successive years, and this is enough to suggest an appearance each season at some point.

In 1869 it appeared in Kent County, about 42° north latitude. In 1870 the species was abundant in Cass and Calhoun Counties, about 42°; 1871 found the birds in Van Buren County, 42°; 1872 and 1873 give no records in the state that I can find. In January, 1874, the birds appeared for the first time in Kalamazoo County in small flocks. In December, 1874, they again appeared, but in large flocks, and remained in the habit of perching and biting off the buds. There are many habits in which the two are alike. In our village, there were at that time many American mountain ash trees, *pyrus americana*, which were loaded with the orange-colored berries. This fruit constituted the main reliance of the Grosbeaks during their visits; at the close of their stay with us there was not a berry left for the early Robins, which not rarely feed on them.

When feeding the birds seem oblivious of danger, and one can approach within a rod of a flock, but if one bird flies the flock quickly follows the lead, the movement of escape being accompanied by a series of their low, pleasing chirps. This call note, uttered singly when the birds are feeding un-

with us till late in February, 1875. Flocks also appeared in Washtenaw County, 42°, in winter of 1874-75, one hundred miles east of Kalamazoo, but the species was not seen again in that neighborhood, Ann Arbor, up to 1881. There are no records that I can find for 1876, 1877, or of any other year, in the state, excepting that of Kent County, where the birds were abundant in the winter of 1878-79. Since the date of 1879, I can secure no account of the appearance of this bird, although I doubt not that they have appeared in an irregular way in many parts of the state. If cold weather is the cause of their irregular southern migration, then the present winter of 1892-93, which is very severe, with deep snow, would give promise of their appearance. But though the species appeared in the east in large numbers, particularly in New England, they have not been seen to my knowledge in southern Michigan this season.

Going back and examining the old catalogues of Michigan birds we find that nearly all our state or local records, especially the earlier ones, omit this species.* Sager's pioneer list of 1893, document of house of representatives, omits it, as does also J. E. Cabot, 1850. In fact, half of the collectors

* This is strange, when the early collectors had taken the equally rare Evening Grosbeak as a Michigan bird. In fact, the latter was first discovered in this region, and first described from specimens secured at the foot of Lake Superior in 1833.

large number were killed in various ways. At one time, and when the thermometer indicated 18° F., the birds were very sluggish, appearing as if stupefied. I killed one with a short stick by reaching up and knocking it from its perch. Still I do not believe that it is the cold which brings these birds or any other irregular northern visitors to our neighborhood.

One which I kept alive for several days fed on seeds of nearly all kinds, but appeared especially fond of apple seeds. It would tear apple cores to pieces very quickly, to get at the seeds. One bird, undoubtedly a male, which was captured in the plain plumage, took on the yellowish coat in May, I believe, and resembled the captive female

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gregarious, like most of our smaller ne-
visitors, and even more so than its near
tive, the Evening Grosbeak.

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Pine Grosbeak, January and February
years 1874 and 1875, the flocks oc-
the trees in the heart of the village
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buds of various trees and shrubs, much
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pearance in our midst it is an easy matter to
study its habits, for the bird is very confi-
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tive, the Evening Grosbeak.

and ornithologists of Michigan have failed
to meet with it. A careful observer might
live a lifetime in one locality and fail to re-
cord this bird, while the flocks may have
passed or even remained for the winter
within a few miles of him. This is a strag-
gler, the dispersion of which can only be
understood through the combined attention
of the observers of a state.

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Pine Grosbeak, January and February of the
years 1874 and 1875, the flocks occupied
the trees in the heart of the village. The
birds were particularly plentiful in 1875, and
large flocks could be seen at nearly all times
in our public park, where they mainly roosted
in the clumps of thick evergreens. The
birds fed to a considerable extent on the
buds of various trees and shrubs, much re-
sembling the Evening Grosbeak in its man-
ner of perching and biting off the buds.
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When feeding the birds seem obli-
vious to danger, and one can approach within a rod
of a flock, but if one bird flies the flock
quickly follows the lead, the movement of
escape being accompanied by a series of
their low, pleasing chirps. This call note,
uttered singly when the birds are feeding un-

disturbed, is the only sound which I have
heard from them in winter.

In the winter of 1874 I secured but three
specimens, which were all in the gray or
drab plumage, and I saw but one brilliant
carmine male the entire season, in a flock
of fifteen or twenty. An acquaintance of
mine secured a fine drab specimen alive and
confined it in a cage. In the spring it as-
sumed a change of plumage, appearing of a
tawny or yellowish and entirely different
from the usual coat that we see here. This
was undoubtedly a female, as it never gave
voice to any song whatever.

In 1875 I armed myself with a shotgun
and a permit from the president of our vil-
lage board, and went into the park for birds
and secured a large number, among which
were three carmine males. There were sev-
eral hundred birds in Kalamazoo that year,
and though I cannot feel certain about the
number all told, I feel safe in saying that
there were just seven bright males in the lot.
I think that the proportion of sombre plu-
maged birds to the carmine birds is about
thirty or more to one. I have observed a
flock of over fifty birds in January with not
a brilliant specimen in it.

Several were captured alive by the boys,
who stunned them with snowballs, and a
large number were killed in various ways.
At one time, and when the thermometer in-
dicated 18° F., the birds were very sluggish,
appearing as if stupefied. I killed one with
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THE PINE GROSBEAK IN CAPTIVITY.

Auk, XIII, Jan., 1896, pp. 21-24
BY O. W. KNIGHT.

THE winter of 1892-93 will be long remembered by Maine ornithologists on account of the great number of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) which visited this State. November 16, 1892, I noticed two or three individuals feeding on seeds of the white ash near Orono, Maine. December 25 a flock of about two hundred individuals appeared in the yard of a friend in Bangor and began to feed upon the seeds of crab-apples of which a large quantity remained on the leafless trees in his yard. He at once sent word to me, and I was soon on the spot. I determined to catch a pair of the birds and see if they could be induced to breed in captivity.

A horse hair slip noose was speedily arranged at the end of a bean pole, and with this crude apparatus I essayed to capture the birds, which were very tame. They would sit quietly engaged in feeding, while I slipped the noose over one's head, and hauled it from its perch on the tree. The remainder of the flock did not seem to take any notice of the queer antics of their captured comrade, which uttered loud, harsh cries when handled while the noose was being removed from its neck. In this way about twenty females and young males were captured, but the handsome adult males were more wary and remained near the top of the tree, so that it was impossible to capture any of them.

After a careful scrutiny of the captives, I selected two likely looking ones which by sheer luck turned out to be a pair. My friend also selected a couple of the birds, and the remainder were set free. My pair of birds were placed in a large cage in our kitchen, where they would become accustomed to seeing persons near them, and they quickly became very tame. The next day after their capture, the male began to sing in a low ventriloquial voice which seemed to come from an entirely opposite direction from where he was.

In a few days they would eagerly take apple and hemp seed from my hand, and very soon I would allow them to come out of their cage and fly about the room. When I desired to get them into their cage again, a few seeds placed near the door at once enticed them within.

The male quickly assumed the ascendancy, and did not allow the female to partake of any proffered dainties until his own appetite was satisfied. The second week in May he showed indications of pairing, and nesting material was put in the cage. Both birds would carry this around the cage in their beaks, but did not seem to know how to begin to build a nest. May 30, the

male was found dead in the cage. Notwithstanding this, the female continued preparing to lay, and the morning of June 10 an egg was found in the bottom of the cage. June 11 a second and last egg of the set was laid. They were of a greenish blue color, spotted with black and lilac. The spots were thickest at the larger end where they tended to become confluent and form a wreath. The eggs measured $1.00 \times .68$ and $1.02 \times .64$ inches respectively.

The next winter, 1893-94, no Grosbeaks were observed in this vicinity, and so I was disappointed in getting a mate for my bird. The last of May, 1894, she showed signs of desiring to build a nest. An old nest of the Loggerhead Shrike was placed in a box in her cage, and she at once occupied herself in tearing it to pieces and attempting in a crude way to build a nest. On June 9, 14, 17, 22, and 23 she deposited eggs which exhibit the following dimensions: $.90 \times .69$, $.94 \times .70$, $.95 \times .68$, $.90 \times .65$, and $.90 \times .69$. On completion of this set she desired to incubate, acting very much like a sitting hen. In July she again began to prepare a nest, and on July 17 and 18 she laid eggs which measure $.81 \times .64$ and $.86 \times .62$ in.

January 17, 1895, a few Grosbeaks were observed feeding on some sumach berries in a small grove near Bangor. February 2 a flock of about twenty visited a crab-apple tree in a neighbor's garden, and, although they were very wild, I finally managed to capture one which proved to be a young male. He was at once introduced to the captive female, but the two developed a strong antipathy to each other, and a fierce fight ensued, so that I was obliged to place them in separate cages.

May 20 the female began to build a nest, and I again tried to mate the birds, but they at once began to attack each other, so I was obliged to give up all hopes of their mating.

On May 28, 29, and June 5, 6, and 7 eggs were deposited which measure $.92 \times .69$, $.83 \times .66$, $.93 \times .71$, $.88 \times .70$, and $.88 \times .69$ in., and the female at once desired to incubate. June 11 the bird began to construct another nest, and on June 14, 15, 22, and 24 she again laid. The eggs measure $.99 \times .70$, $.86 \times .67$, $.95 \times .70$, and $.64 \times .57$ in. The last egg laid was very small and contained no yolk. The bird now ceased laying until July, when on

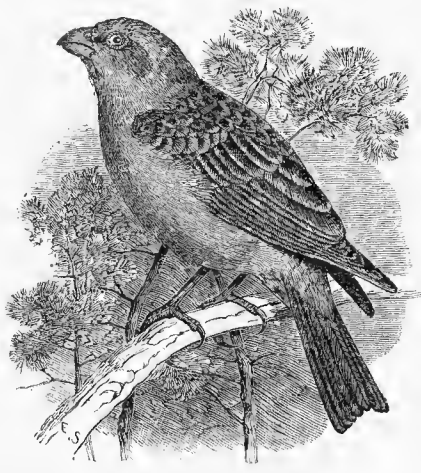
July 10, 11, and 12 she laid eggs measuring $.93 \times .69$, $.94 \times .68$, and $.88 \times .69$ in. I now supposed that she was through with her remarkable production of eggs, but to my astonishment on July 25, 26, and 27 she again laid, the eggs measuring $.93 \times .67$, $.89 \times .64$ and $.90 \times .65$ respectively. This ended the production of eggs for this year. In August I tried to put the male in the cage with the female, and this time they managed to get along without quarreling, and have been kept in one cage ever since.

It was very interesting to observe the moulting of the male, and see him gradually take on the adult plumage. July 20 a few orange colored feathers could be observed on his head near the base of the bill; these gradually grew until on August 1, his drab colored head feathers were all replaced by orange colored ones. July 25 a few orange feathers were noted on his throat, and these grew and replaced the old ones until on September 5 the moult was completed. The feathers of the head, throat, etc., are of a peculiar orange color instead of the beautiful red hue which characterizes the wild birds of the same sex.

Pinicola enucleator, Vieill.

BY DR. ELLIOTT COUES.

THE earliest account of the pine bullfinch to which I can refer the reader who may be anxious to start even with the history of the bird is that given by the great naturalist Edwards, who figured it on two plates, in his famous "Natural History of Birds," 1751. The species is said, however, to be included in the Fauna Suecica of the illustrious Swede, published at Stockholm in 1746, and again in 1761. These



two quotations are the basis of "*Loxia enucleator* L.," 1758, and in the twelfth edition of the *Systema Naturae*, 1766, reference is made to a paper in the Transactions of the Swedish Academy, 1757, p. 139.

Very shortly afterward, in 1760, Brisson published an original and independent description of the same bird, under the name of the "Grosbec de Canada"—"*habitant in Canada*," he says, "*unde missa sunt ad D. Aubry, qui D. de Reaumur dono dedit*." Thus the American bird came in for notice almost as soon as the European. Brisson gave a recognizable figure of the male, as well as one of his usual elaborate descriptions of both sexes. He called it in Latin *Coccothraustes canadensis*—a name revived in later times for use by those who attempted or made believe distinguish the American from the European bird.

Another early synonym is found in the *Dur-bee* of the Count de Buffon—a term which became the usual French book-name of the bird, as pine grosbeak or pine bullfinch did the English one. Among the more prominent later synonyms may be noted *Loxia flamingo* of Sparrmann, *Pinicola rubra* of Vieillot, and *Loxia psittacea* of Pallas. As will be seen from a glance at any full list of synonyms, various other names have been imposed; but they arise either from the assignment of the species to different genera, or from unsuccessful attempts to subdivide it into two or more, Brehm having no fewer than five of these nominations, none of which are worth serious attention. No points in the synonymatic history of the species appear to require discussion, as the list of names is perfectly plain, although quite extensive.

Though it is not my intention to treat the pine bullfinch at any length in its character of an Old World bird, a few words respecting its general distribution in Europe and Asia will not be entirely out of place. What I have to say is mainly derived from Dresser's elaborate article upon this subject. "This," as he says, "one of the most strikingly beautiful of the Arctic birds, inhabits the high northern portions of both the Old and New World, only migrating southward when driven down by the rigors of the Arctic winter. It has occurred in Great Britain, but must be looked on as one of the rarest of the stragglers that occasionally visit our shores." The British authors are nearly unanimous in attesting its extreme rarity in the United Kingdom; but various authentic instances of its occurrence there, among some open to grave doubt, are recorded by Harting and Dresser. It is common in Scandinavia, breeding in the high north and wandering southward in winter. According to Degland and Gerbe, it is a rare and casual visitor in France, several authentic instances of its occurrence in that country being recorded, though Dresser finds none from Spain or Portugal, and only doubtful ones from Italy. It is said never to straggle so far south as the Black Sea. To the eastward it extends across the continent of Asia, and has been found as far south as the Amoor country. In the Himalayas it is said to be replaced by the *Pinicola subhemachalana*.

So little has been learned of the nidification of the bird in America, that for this portion of my narrative I turn also to the work just mentioned, glad to transcribe so reliable and interesting an account.

"The mode of nidification of this bird was unknown until discovered in 1855 by the late Mr. Wolley; and the particulars were first published by Mr. Hewitson in the following year (*Eggs of Brit. Birds*, 2d ed. i., p. 210,* pl. liii.*). Quoting Mr. Wolley, Mr. Hewitson says: 'As the days grew longer I eagerly listened to the beautiful clear music of the bird in more than one locality; and one snowy morning I saw a hen watching me so very unconcernedly from a tree, that I climbed up to try to catch her in my hand. It was not till I nearly touched her that she flew off, as though she thought I was carrying the joke too far, but in a way that convinced me she had no nest. I had made arrangements for working another part of the country; but I left a trusty Lap in strict charge to visit a spot in Finland where I had ascertained that in previous years the bird had bred. On my return to that neighborhood at the end of summer, I watched day after day for the arrival of my faithful Lap. The nights were already becoming dark, when one evening I saw the well-known figure in a boat approaching our strand. I had scarcely shouted welcome before his wallet was in my hand and my English friends and myself were in triumphal procession to the house. First made its appearance a grim wolf's head; then came forth some reindeer gaddies; next there was extracted an unknown nest, then a skinned pine grosbeak; and at last were carefully unwrapped from a little case the wished-for eggs, and there they lay in all their fresh-discovered beauty before us. At midsummer a nest was found with four fully fledged young about a hundred yards from the spot where the former nest had been. It is now in the British Museum. Externally it is made of remarkably open work of twigs and roots, generally in very long pieces. In the center of the platform there is an inner bedding of barkless fibrous roots, with a little of the hair-like lichen which grows so abundantly on the trees in the Lapland forests.'

"I am indebted to Prof. Newton for the loan of a copy of the late Mr. Wolley's notes on the breeding of this species, from which I extract the following description of the first nest obtained by him: 'The nest was found by Pietz, the trust-worthy Lap, in company with Mikel Sadio. It was on the evening of the Second Heluntai (*i. e.*, 27th of May) that they went to Kotta Mello; a little above Yli-Kyrö, on the same side of the river. The place was a little kind of dell where there were groups of small spruces. Pietz first saw the bird fly up from the ground with some sticks or nest-lining in its mouth. It remained quite quiet and still, and they were some time before they found the nest, apparently completed, but still without eggs, and placed about two fathoms from the ground in a young spruce three fathoms high. The branches near the nest, which was not quite touching the bole, were thin, short and open. Several days afterwards the nest contained one egg, at the next visit there were two, and several days later there were four. The nest and eggs were now taken, and it was found that the eggs were slightly set upon. But first the old bird was snared, horse-hair nooses being fixed into the bole of the tree so as to stand out over the nest. . . . The Sadio lad says that he saw at least ten old nests thereabouts, and Pietz says that he has also seen nests in similar situations, but never anywhere else; *i. e.*, there is always some favorite corner where they are placed year after year. At midsummer the lad found another nest, about a hundred yards off, containing four young birds scarcely ready to fly. He took it, and it is now in my possession. The nest which contained the eggs was pulled to pieces by the children in his house at Sadio. The one before me is made externally of an extremely light network of thin trailing twigs laced into each other. One of these twigs completely encircles the nest and goes half way round it again, appearing to be about twenty-eight inches in length. This network of twigs is suddenly changed into a compact bedding of fine bare roots mixed with a few sprigs of hair-lichens, which form together almost a separate nest inside the outer network.'

According to Mr. Wolley's notes, further cited by Mr. Dresser, the nests are nearly always made in spruce trees about twelve feet from the ground. Others than that just described differed in being lined with fine grasses and tree-hair; one was made entirely of fine trailing branches or runners, chiefly of *Linnaea borealis*. The usual number of eggs appears to be four. Several clutches described by Dresser, all from Muonioniska "are pale blue, with the faintest greenish tinge, rather darker in shade than those of the common bullfinch, and are spotted and blotched with faint purplish underlying shell-markings and dark brown surface-spots. In size they average about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{3}{8}$ inch."

The nest and eggs of the pine bullfinch in America seem to have been first noted by the same author, to whom my readers are so much indebted already. The nest was in a tree and contained six eggs. It was discovered at Musquash, New Brunswick, July 6, 1863, by Mr. Dresser's brother Arthur, who saw both the parents, and described them so par-

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ticularly that no doubt remains respecting their identification. They resembled those from Lapland, but were a little smaller, measuring only $\frac{3}{8}$ by $\frac{2}{3}$ inch; the markings less and the spots duller. According to Dr. Brewer, no positively identified eggs of this bird from America were known to exist in collections in 1874; but a nest found at Calais, Maine, by Mr. Boardman, was identified with little doubt, though the parent was not seen. This was placed in an alder bush in a wet meadow, about four feet from the ground, and contained two eggs "not distinguishable from those of the European *enucleator*." It is somewhat a matter of surprise that the investigations conducted by several naturalists of late years in Alaska have not produced the desired specimens, as the bird is very common in that country, where it undoubtedly breeds.

It has fallen within my own experience to find pine grosbeaks at home for the summer, and catch a glimpse of their bearing during the most interesting period of their lives. This happened to me many years ago, when I paid a flying visit to Labrador. I saw birds of this kind on several occasions; once I happened upon a pair which I was sure had a nest near by, because they acted so demurely. They were in a little thicket that grew in a sheltered place where the wind did not blow strong enough to disconcert the insects in the least, and so, though I plunged in several times, each time I beat a quicker retreat, vanquished and disheartened; it was simply impossible to search for a nest in that maelstrom of mosquitoes. So, after watching the pair at my leisure from a vantage ground where the wind blew fresh, I secured them both with my gun, and was glad to leave the spot. The birds displayed no fear at all, nor did they even seem disconcerted by my staring; very likely, neither of them had

ever seen a creature of the kind before; certainly they had not learned how "mighty unsartin" a white man is, or they would have left before I did. As I watched them the mother bird often spoke a single word to her mate in a low, soft, reassuring tone, which reminded me of the note of the fox sparrow; and again the pair chirruped comfortably to each other, as if they had had their doubts of me, but were entirely reassured. It was a pity to kill them, after all this; but indeed I needed all the specimens I could get during that unlucky cruise, to make any sort of a show for my time and money. Nor were these two the only birds of the kind that I destroyed the same summer. I found them at various points along the coast; so that the country must be a regular summer resort for large numbers, which find in the thick patches of fir, pine and juniper a congenial home.

It was rather late in the season when my slight acquaintance with these grosbeaks began and ended, so that I never heard their song. At least I judged they had passed the tuneful season for that year, though they are said to sing during nearly the whole summer. Thus Audubon pictures the scene of their musical triumphs, and pays a heartfelt tribute to the power to please their strains possess. "The pine grosbeak is a charming songster," he says: "Well do I remember how delighted I felt, while lying on the moss-clad rocks of Newfoundland, near St. George's Bay, I listened to its continuous lay, so late as the middle of August, particularly about sunset. I was reminded of the pleasure I had formerly enjoyed on the banks of the clear Mohawk, under nearly similar circumstances, when lending the attentive ear to the mellow notes of another grosbeak. But, reader, at Newfoundland I was still farther removed from my beloved family; the scenery was thrice wilder and more magnificent. The stupendous dark granite rocks, fronting to the north, as if bidding defiance to the wintry tempests, brought a chillness to my heart, as I thought of the hardships endured by those intrepid travellers who, for the advancement of science, had braved the horrors of a polar winter. The glowing tints of the western sky, and the brightening stars twinkling over the waters of the great Gulf, riveted me to the spot, and the longer I gazed, the more I wished to remain; but darkness was suddenly produced by the advance of a mass of damp fog, the bird ceased its song, and all around seemed transformed into chaos. Silently I groped my way to the beach, and soon reached the Ripley."

As a piece of pure "buncombe," this passage from the great author will compare favorably with anything in his work; I should not be ashamed of it myself, if I had to "write up" the song of a bird I had forgotten all about, or perhaps never heard. His experience with dry fogs being doubtless extensive, it was well to state that the mist in which he groped, after he had unfastened the rivets of color, was damp. The same article, however, continues with a contribution from his friend Thomas McCulloch, of Pictou, Nova Scotia, which I transcribe as giving the best picture I have found drawn of the pine grosbeak as a captive.

"Last winter the snow was exceedingly deep, and the storms so frequent and violent that many birds must have perished in consequence of the scarcity of food. The pine grosbeaks being driven from the woods, collected about the barns in great numbers, and even in the streets of Pictou

they frequently alighted in search of food. A pair of these birds, which had been recently taken, were brought me by a friend, but they were in such a poor emaciated condition, that I almost despaired of being able to preserve them alive. Being anxious, however, to note for you the changes of their plumage, I determined to make the attempt, but notwithstanding all my care, they died a few days after they came into my possession. Shortly after, I received a male in splendid plumage, but so emaciated that he seemed little else than a mass of feathers. By more cautious feeding, however, he soon regained his flesh, and became so tame as to eat from my hand without the least appearance of fear. To reconcile him gradually to confinement, he was permitted to fly about my bedroom, and upon rising in the morning the first thing I did was to give him a small quantity of seed; but three mornings in succession I happened to lie rather later than usual, and each morning I was aroused by the bird fluttering upon my shoulder and calling for his usual allowance. The third morning I allowed him to flutter about me for some time before showing any symptom of being awake, but he no sooner observed that his object was effected than he returned to the window and waited patiently till I arose. As the spring approached he used to whistle occasionally in the morning, and his notes, like those of his relative, the rose-breasted grosbeak, were exceedingly rich and full. About the time, however, when the species began to remove to the north, his former familiarity entirely disappeared. During the day he never rested a moment, but continued to run from one side of the window to the other seeking a way of escape, and frequently during the night, when the moonlight would fall upon the window, I was awakened by him dashing against the glass. The desire of liberty seemed at last to absorb every other feeling, and during four days I could not detect the least diminution in the quantity of his food, while at the same time he filled the house with a pitious, wailing cry which no person could hear without feeling for the poor captive. Unable to resist his appeals I gave him his release, but when this was attained he seemed very careless of availing himself of it. Having perched upon the top of a tree in front of the house he arranged his feathers and looked about him for a short time. He then alighted by the door, and I was at last obliged to drive him away, lest some accident should befall him."

Various writers speak of a curious disease to which pine grosbeaks are subject, supposed by some to be occasioned by continual perching on the resinous boughs of coniferous trees. It consists in hard irregular excrescences which form upon the tarsi and toes. Mr. McCulloch adds to the account already quoted, the following observations on this score: "Irregularly shaped whitish masses are formed upon the legs and feet; to the eye these lumps appear not unlike pieces of lime; but when broken, the interior presents a congeries of minute cells, as regularly and beautifully formed as those of a honeycomb. Sometimes, though rarely, I have seen the whole of the legs and feet covered with this substance, and when the crust was broken, the bone was bare, and the sinews seemed almost altogether to have lost the power of moving the feet. An acquaintance of mine kept one of these birds during the summer months. It became quite tame, but at last it lost the power of its legs and died." A lady who seems to have had some experience with caged pine grosbeaks also informed Audubon that they were liable to cramps, and died of sores about the eyes and base of the upper mandible. Several males she had in confinement were fond of bathing, used to sing during the night, fed on all sorts of berries and other fruits in summer, and on seeds of various kind in winter. In a state of nature, this food seems to be much more varied than some have supposed, consisting of buds, fruits and seeds of almost any kind. They also take gravel into the gizzard to facilitate the trituration of the harder substances they eat, and often descend to the ground to pick it up. They move either on the ground or in trees, by hopping with both feet together, in the usual passerine fashion. Under all ordinary circumstances, even when not breeding, their tameness is a remarkable trait; they scarcely seem to think of danger from any source, and sometimes even fly in its face. They are less decidedly gregarious than many others of the Loxians; still, many pairs may resort to the same tract to breed, and during their winter wanderings they are usually observed in each other's company, often also associating with crossbills, redpoll linnets and other boreal Fringillines.

These beautiful grosbeaks, as may be surmised from what has preceded, are distributed in summer throughout the wooded districts of British, and what used to be Russian, America, where they lead quiet and secluded lives in the recesses of unbounded coniferous forests. From such favored *penetrabilia*, where they are scarcely molested during the period of the season of reproduction, many of the birds are inclined to move southward in the fall, while others are content to endure the rigors of a boreal winter as far north at least as Hudson Bay. The extent of their wanderings in the United States becomes a matter of the same interest that

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attaches to the nomadic lives of the Bohemian waxwings, crossbills, redpolls, snow-buntings and the like, all of which scour our country in restless flocks during the off season of the year, searching for their precarious means of subsistence. We have no accounts of the summer residence of pine grosbeaks in the United States east of the Mississippi, excepting in Northern New England and New York, and the region of the great lakes, all along which stretches of the pine woods which the birds love invite them to a congenial summer home. But, doubtless, when we know more than we do now of the whole bird life of our great mountain ranges in the West, we shall find the pine grosbeaks all along them at certain elevations, as alpine but no longer boreal denizens of the higher reaches of pine-clad mountains. We already know of their breeding as far south as the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, as they doubtless also do in the Sierras Nevadas of California.

We have a number of records of the irregular appearance of the bird on the eastern side of the continent, as far south as Philadelphia and Washington, which seems to be about the limit of migration. Drs. Coues and Prentiss speak of it as "an exceedingly rare and probably only accidental visitant in severe winters," in the District of Columbia. The parallel of 39 deg. north, may be given as roughly indicating an extreme of its range, unless in the most exceptional instances. In Pennsylvania, according to Mr. Gentry, the pine grosbeak only occasionally occurs during the winter, reaching such latitude about the beginning of December, and inhabiting dense pine woods, which it forsakes in the spring to leave traces of its presence in the damage done to the buds of fruit trees before it takes its leave. The same author, noted for the attention he has paid to the food of our birds, presents a winter bill of fare which includes a variety of insects, besides the seeds of pines, firs, birches and junipers, to which is added in the spring the buds of maples, the tender young cones of pines, and a new set of bugs. In Southern New England, writes Mr. Merriam, the pine grosbeak is an irregular winter visitant in Connecticut, though Messrs. Coe and Sage, of Portland, Conn., informed the writer that the bird was to be found there every winter, from the latter part of November to the middle of March. Further north than this, it is scarcely necessary to trace the bird's history in winter; for it directly becomes a regular winter visitant, if not resident, though its movements still depend more or less upon the vicissitudes of the weather. One of the records, however, may be here transcribed, as showing in what multitudes these rovers sometimes make their appearance.

"In the winter of 1835, and for several following seasons," writes Dr. Brewer, "these birds were exceeding abundant in the vicinity of Boston, [Mass.]. They appeared early in December, and remained until quite late in March, feeding chiefly on the berries of the red cedar, [*Juniperus virginianus*]. They were so unsuspecting and familiar that it was often possible to capture them alive in butterfly nets, and to knock them down with poles. Large numbers were destroyed and brought to market, and many were taken alive and caged. They were tame, but unhappy in confinement, uttering mournful cries as the warm weather approached. In the winter of 1869-70 they again made their appearance in extraordinary numbers, in a few localities on the sea coast of Massachusetts, where they did considerable damage to the fruit buds of the apples and pear."

The Ohioan and Illinoisian authorities concur in accrediting the pine grosbeaks to their respective States, but only in the usual character of winter visitants, and in the northerly parts alone. It may be remembered that Dr. Cabanis records from Illinois a specimen upon which the name *Pinicola canadensis* was originally based. It is quoted in Professor Snow's list as a rare winter visitant in Kansas, as far south as Leavenworth. Turning westward now, we directly find that the greater part of the country is ill adapted to the requirements of this bird, and that consequently it is confined to mountainous regions, where its much-loved conifers flourish.

I can present no record as a voucher for its appearance even casually in New Mexico or Arizona, but it is common, and it breeds, in more elevated regions environing the basin of the Colorado River. The bird finds its most southerly extension, and likewise the most southerly breeding range, in the Rocky Mountains. I lately had the pleasure of first publishing some notes, furnished by Mr. T. M. Trippe, which substantiate these statements, although the latest formal biography of the American bird makes no allusion to the important information furnished through my valued correspondent. Mr. Trippe's observations, made at Idaho Springs, in Colorado, are to the following effect: The pine grosbeak is irregularly distributed in that part of the mountains, where it was observed throughout the summer and fall months in the woods near timber line. It does not descend much below such elevation, not having been seen

under 9,500 feet, even in the depth of winter, though stragglers probably reach even the foothills. Its food is chiefly the seeds of the pine, birch and alder, but the birds occasionally descend to the ground to pick up other kinds, and probably insects as well. It has a very pleasing song, clear, sweet and flowing, like that of the purple finch. "I cannot say at what season it breeds, but am inclined to think that it must be very early, as young birds are fully feathered and have left their parents in June, before the snow has disappeared from the woods."

Mr. Nelson has given us the record of the occurrence of pine grosbeaks in abundance in June and July at Fort Bridger, Utah. For California, our principal authority, as would be supposed, is Dr. J. G. Cooper. According to this writer, "this beautiful bird is not uncommon near the summits of the Sierra Nevada, lat. 39 deg., in September, and doubtless breed there, as I obtained two fine specimens in the young plumage. . . . They were feeding on spruce seeds when I first saw them, and still lingered about, after two had been shot, as if waiting for their comrades. Soon descending to some shrubby alders to eat their seeds, then to the ground, where they hopped about for some time, uttering a low chirping note, and allowing us to go within a few feet of them." In a later communication, made to the California Academy of Sciences, Dr. Cooper thus alludes again to the same birds: "A specimen which I shot in August, 1870, near the summit of the Pacific Railroad pass, over the Sierra Nevada, was of a fine orange-red color, but beginning to moult. This plumage, which is not described by Baird, is stated by Nuttall to be the most adult condition of the species, the carmine-red characterizing younger birds. It may, however, be a fading change, like the yellow seen in caged birds of some other red species." I may add that Dr. Cooper's surmise is undoubtedly correct. In any event the carmine-red is certainly the normal perfect plumage, other shades of red indicating decay, decline, fading of the plumage, or other ill condition.

Brief Notes.

The Pine Grosbeaks have been very numerous at Andover this winter. Every time that I go out I meet with one or more flocks of from 5 to 20 feeding in the ash, pine and apple trees. The seeds of the ash are their principal food, but they also feed on the apples that remain frozen on the trees.

November 30 I first saw them, but there had been one or two others shot a few days before.

I have shot 13 specimens, 4 of which were males and only one in the red plumage. There had been 8 or 10 others in the red plumage shot here. I hope that other collectors are having as good success.

E. Woodruff.
O. & O. Vol. 18, Mar. 1893 p. 47

Brief Notes.

A word or two more about Pine Grosbeaks. As they are strangers here, this winter they created quite an amount of notice. Every day or two some one would ask the question, What new birds are these around here? On February 5th, when I arrived home from church, my 12-year-old girl ran to meet me saying, "O, papa, I have caught one of those Pine Grosbeaks; he was so tame I put my hand right on him while he was eating horse-brier berries." I have kept him (I say him for I think it is a male, as he sings very sweetly, although it has not the red plumage) in a cage since that time. Once a week I bring in a small pine tree and let "Dick" out for a nice time, which he seems to enjoy very much. He is very tame; will alight on our heads and makes himself very much at home in general. He feeds freely on oats, pine buds, sand, apple and other seeds, and has a very nice time bathing in a saucer of water.

C. C. Foster, West Duxbury, Mass.
O. & O. Vol. 18, July, 1893 p. 107

THE PINE GROSBEEK IN CONFINEMENT.—I have a male Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) in confinement, which was captured in the winter of '82. He stood the hot weather in summer well and is now in fine condition, being fat and in full plumage. When caught he was of an ashy brown color, except back of head and rump were tinged with yellow. In the fall of '83 he came out in a coat of bright yellow wings, and tail nearly black, wing bars white. I suppose he would have been red in place of the yellow if he had been at liberty. Last month (January) I captured three more, one male and two females, by slipping over their heads a slip noose made of horse hair and attached to a slender pole. So I have now two pair and am in hopes of getting a clutch or two of eggs this spring. I feed them on corn meal mixed with sweet milk, also apple seeds and beech nuts. They are especially fond of the buds of the pine and spruce and the seeds that they get from the cones. They are quite good singers, and both male and female sing. The former louder and more musical than the latter.

Their song is generally a low warble audible but at a short distance, though they sometimes sing a louder note which somewhat resembles that of the Rose-breasted, (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*). In answer to P. S. U. would say the red males are quite common here in winter.

I am uncertain about the whistling sound made while flying, but think it is not made by the wings.—*G. F., Union, Maine.*
O. & O. IX, Apr. 1884, p. 41.

THE LISTENER 1892
Boston Transcript, Dec. 27, 1892
Walking with his friend, the Naturalist, over wintry but very pleasant roads and country paths lately, the Listener has been introduced to the company of some very pleasing and beautiful strangers whom he has found inhabiting the waysides and thickets. They are birds, quite naturally; since very few other people live out of doors at this season; and they are birds of such beauty and such interesting and amiable ways that it is not a matter of wonder that their occasional visits create something like a sensation. They are called pine grosbeaks. They are a far northern bird, at home in the summer time within the arctic circle, and descending in usual winters to come no further toward the sweltering South than Canada or the White Mountains; but once in several years, as it seems, finding Massachusetts sufficiently hyperborean to suit their singular taste in the matter of weather. They are here certainly in great numbers now; one can scarcely take a country walk, even quite near to the city—for they are not in the very least a shy bird, but on the contrary a very tame one—without encountering many of them. The other morning, when the Listener was out with the Naturalist, upwards of 160 of the grosbeaks were counted, and many of them certainly got away before they were counted. And on a subsequent forenoon the Naturalist counted 250 of them in several flocks.

The pine grosbeak was evidently created for the purpose of compensating the inhabitants of far northern regions for the absence of the parrot or tanager and the mocking bird; for, as the Listener can aver from actual observation, the red plumage of the mature male bird of this species is splendid in the highest degree. The proportion of these highly plumaged males seems to be very small, since the Listener saw but one of them on the morning of which he speaks. This fellow was first seen in the midst of his flock in a white ash tree by the roadside; presently he flew with the rest over into a savin tree in a swamp just over the fence; and while most of the rest of the flock came dipping softly through the air back to the ash tree, chirping sweetly as they did so, this red one did not come, but slipped over into an elm tree further into the swamp and remained there, preening his fine feathers, for a considerable time. He allowed the Listener to creep up, within fifteen or twenty feet of him; and, although, in thus approaching, it was necessary to make a great noise of crunching shoes in the frozen snow, and of parting and snapping of alder bushes, the bird was not in the least disconcerted, and regarded his visitor merely curiously, not at all timidly. What a beauty he was! His head and back were carmine-red, his breast rosy-red; his wings were almost black, with two distinct white bars upon them; his belly was a beautiful ashy-gray—a tint which shaded off delicately into the rose of his breast. His black bill was broad and thick, somewhat like a paroquet's, and the upper half of it hooked over the lower bill a little. This bird, like all the rest, was about as large as a robin. He remained a long time on the elm branch, pluming himself, turning about now and then, looking very jolly and contented, and as if he were half inclined to come down and have a chat at closer quarters with the queer human visitor not ten feet below him and not more than twenty feet away from him.

Meantime the minions of his flock—the women and boys of the tribe, they seemed to be—were feeding very busily on the seeds of the ash tree just back by the roadside. You could hear their stout bills cracking the hard pods of the seeds, and the long shells came fluttering to the ground in a gentle shower. Now and then a few of the birds traversed the short distance between the ash tree and the savin with a most graceful, drooping, swinging flight, giving out a note more like the sweet twitter of the goldfinch than any other bird-sound the Listener knows, and eating a cedar-berry or two as a sort of piquant sauce to their rather bitter dinner of ash-fruit. And they were all so noticeably gentle and aimable in their ways! They seemed to have no fear of their human visitors, so long as these were on foot; but when a carriage came along the road and clattered under their ash tree they all flew over into the swamp, gathering around their red master in the elm. All these birds—except the red patriarch—were for the most part of an ashen gray color, with darker wings and tails, and those same white wing-bars that their master had. They were very plump of body; but the Listener has been told that they are not good to eat because their food is made up of such pungent articles as ash fruit, cedar berries and pine buds. At any rate, their extraordinary tameness indicates that they are not hunted much.

As the Listener still stood, hobnobbing with his gorgeous new acquaintance, he was treated to an extremely pretty sight. Close by him the alder thicket overhung what had been a little pool; and here a slight flow, or a little spring, or some such cause, had reclaimed a little space of water from the frost. To this spot a dozen or twenty of the grosbeaks now came to drink, chattering and twittering as they did so. They were a lovely group of birds; the Listener might have tossed his hat into the midst of them as they danced about, drinking. They all seemed so gentlemanly and lady-like and amiable that the Listener was astonished beyond all power of expression to see two of the fattest of the ashen group get into a regular fight, which lasted for as much as three or four seconds, and was accompanied by some unmusical screeches. It was apparently a matter of disagreement over a thimbleful of water. But while he was watching this, the red grosbeak left the elm tree, and flew away deep into the swamp. One by one all the other birds followed him, showing no haste, twittering softly, maintaining their remarkably good manners, and leaving behind them a most agreeable impression.

The Naturalist says that the pine grosbeak is a particularly good singer, but as of course he sings in the nesting season, and as his mate builds her nest somewhere on the shores of Hudson's Bay, or the banks of the Yukon, the Listener hardly expects to hear the song. Our own region is tropical to him. Thank heaven that it has been warm enough for somebody the last few days! Ordinarily the flocks of these birds are found in the young ash trees along the roadsides, the fruit upon which is exceedingly abundant this winter. They seem to be very hearty eaters, though with their frequent journeys from one tree to another, they get a good deal of exercise in the intervals of their persistent banqueting. They are a most cheerful addition to our winter population, and render a walk delightful—when the weather will permit it!
[Chambelin]

The Pine Grosbeak.

(Pinicola Canadensis.)

On Jan. 13th. I first saw a large flock of these northern birds, and for the following week they were quite common. They are very tame, and I obtained as many specimens as I wanted. I saw several adult males in full red plumage. Is this common in winter? I observed that they were always engaged in picking the seeds from the cones of the Larch-trees, and a few were generally hopping about on the ground.

Although always quite tame, these birds appear to be especially so in a snow storm. They seem totally unacquainted with the effect of any missile; as, if a stone is thrown near them. Towards the latter part of the month, if disturbed while feeding, they would leave the immediate vicinity, when they first arrived they were not readily driven away from their feeding grounds. Whenever they fly, they make a whistling sound like a Wild Dove. Do they make this with their wings? They were very fat and most of the specimens shot were in various stages of moulting.

I saw these birds last winter also, but in comparatively small numbers, nor were there any red males among them. Have you heard of them in any other part of the country as far south?

I send you these few facts as I find very little in ornithological works in reference to these birds—*P. S. W., Southboro', Worcester Co., Mass.*

Pine Grosbeak appears to have become uncommonly plentiful throughout England this season, probably owing to a severe winter which has been experienced in the northern sections. Our correspondent (*Chas. C. Richards, Northampton Comm.*) reports seeing them in large numbers, and we have received numerous specimens to the same effect from other parts. In severe winters they are occasionally found even as far south as Pennsylvania, but we have no report of their having been seen there so far this season.

PREPARATORY NOTE. This journal was not only a personal diversion, and in the prosecution of the own ornithological studies, but with a special view to the availability as a private and supplemental medium for the communication of knowledge. Its publication might prove helpful and encouraging to children than his own. The proverbial mother attaches to a published diary—by reason of its character and its own. His publication might prove helpful and encouraging to children than his own. The proverbial mother attaches to a published diary—by reason of its character and its own. His publication might prove helpful and encouraging to children than his own. The proverbial mother attaches to a published diary—by reason of its character and its own.

O. and O.

315. *Pine Grosbeaks* [sic]. By H. Gray. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 51.—Several flocks of "*Pinicola enucleator*" seen in summer at Albion, N. Y. *N. B.*—At p. 61 this note is stated to relate to the "Pine Goldfinch, *Chrysomitris pinus*."

166. *Pine Grosbeak* (*Pinicola enucleator*, L., V.) and *Robin* (*Turdus migratorius*, L.) in *Winter* [in *Nova Scotia*]. By J. Matthews Jones. *Ibid.*, XVI, March 13, 1881, p. 86.—The former "quite common"; small flocks of the latter frequent the spruce woods every winter, in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax peninsula. For ~~J. Stream~~

225. *The Pine Grosbeak*. *Pinicola enucleator*, Vieill. By Dr. Elliott Coues. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 14, pp. 264, 265, Nov. 2, 1882.—General history of this species. For. & Stream.

228. *Caged Pine Grosbeaks*. By B. Horsford. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 17, pp. 323, 324.—An interesting account of the habits of *Pinicola enucleator* in confinement. For. & Stream.

1868. *Notes on Pennsylvania Birds*. By B. H. Warren. *Ibid.*, Feb. 13, p. 64.—*Pinicola enucleator*, *Plectrophenax nivalis*, *Calcarius lapponicus*. File under *Pinicola enucleator*. For. & Stream, Vol. 34

For. & Stream 169. *The Pine Grosbeak*. By Chas. E. Ingalls. *Ibid.*, XVI, Apr. 14, 1881, pp. 206, 207.—Observations on its habits in winter in Massachusetts.

1824. *A Question of Taste*.. By Fannia Pearson Hardy. On food habits of *Sphyrapicus varius*, *Pinicola enucleator*, etc. For. & Stream, Vol. 38, Nov. 14, p. 323. File under *P. enucleator*

The Correct Name for the Canadian Pine Grosbeak.—*Canadensis* (Brehm, 1831), as the subspecific name for the eastern Pine Grosbeak is long antedated by *Loxia leucura* of Müller (Volls. Natursyst. Suppl. und Register-Band, 1776, 150), whose name, based on Buffon's Pl. Enl. 135, fig. 1, will have to be recognized. This form should properly be called *Pinicola enucleator leucura* (Müller).—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, Washington, D. C. *Auk*, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 85.