

STURGEON JAY

Geographic Distribution

Local Distribution

The northern portion of Europe, namely Norway, Sweden, and Finland, constitute the habitat of this interesting bird, which offers to the naturalist many points for further investigation. With two closely allied species from the north of the American continent, it would seem to form a genus, representing we believe to that of the two here, but still separated from it by certain modifications of structure. The general form is less robust, the bill more feeble and shorter, and the feathers more plum-like and blacker. It is not, however, regarded as forming a new genus, but undoubtedly ranks the present bird a place in that of *Sturges*. The Sturgeon Jay, like the *Sturges* relative (*Sturges*), has a full share of that vigorous constitution and instinctive qualities which distinguish the race. Its movements are bold and rapid, and its actions quick and sure. Compared with the northern jay, it is equally unknown in the temperate and southern latitudes. It is found chiefly in the north and west, where it is not infrequently, it must in all respects be fitted of the extreme cold of a Siberian winter, which, as the bird is not migratory, it must in all respects be fitted to endure. In these dreary regions, where the human population is thin and scattered, the Sturgeon Jay, like the woods and thickets of part of their food, and attracts the notice of the traveler by its familiar cry and resemblance.

The food consists of wild berries and fruits, to which insects, their larvae and worms are also added. Of its nidification little is known; but in this respect we may naturally conclude that it resembles its allied congeners the *Sturges* (*Sturges*), which is an early breeder, even before the snow is off the ground; constructing a nest of sticks and grass, in a hollow in the recesses of the woods, and laying five blue eggs. The nest is covered with a coat of short blackish feathers; those which cover the nostrils, and those along around the base of the bill, are yellowish white; the upper surface is olive brown; the shoulders and outer tail-feathers are rufous; the quills and two middle tail-feathers brown; the throat and under surface of a lighter tint than the back, changing insensibly to a pale rufous, which becomes more decided on the thighs and under tail-coverts; back and tail black. Length three inches. It is not known that it undergoes any periodical change in its plumage, which is like in both sexes. The Plate represents an adult bird of the natural size.