

Genus CORYTHUS, *Cuv.*

GEN. CHAR. *Beak* short, hard, thick, rounded in every part and slightly hooked at the point. *Nostrils* basal, lateral and rounded, covered with thickly set hair-like feathers. *Tarsi* short. *Toes* entirely divided. *Wings* more lengthened than in the genus *Pyrrhula*. *Tail* moderate and slightly forked.

PINE GROSBEAK.

Corythus eneucleator, *Cuv.*

Le Bouvreuil durbec.

THE Pine Grosbeak, hitherto classed among the Bullfinches, has been separated by Cuvier and advanced to the rank of a genus under the name of *Corythus*, which, as will be readily perceived, has characters sufficiently strong to warrant its legitimacy. The situation which this genus appears to hold is that of the connecting link between *Loxia* on the one hand and *Pyrrhula* on the other; agreeing with the former in its place of resort, habits, manners and style of colouring, and with the latter in the short and rounded beak.—The Pine Grosbeak, though not strictly a native of Great Britain, has been several times killed in our Island. Its true habitat appears to be within the Arctic Circle of both Continents, and we know it to be abundant in Norway, Sweden and Russia, inhabiting the secluded recesses of the almost untrodden pine forests of those countries, where it feeds upon the seeds of pine cones, as well as various kinds of other seeds and wild alpine berries. In the more southern provinces of Europe it appears to be merely an accidental visitor, and is rarely met with even in the North of Germany.

In another point also we trace a similarity between this bird and the Crossbill;—viz., in the changes which its plumage undergoes, passing, according to the seasons, from greenish yellow to a scarlet more or less pure. In the annexed Plate we have given a figure of the male and female in what we consider to be their adult plumage: on this point, however, we differ from M. Temminck, whose description we take the liberty of transcribing.

“The livery of the adult and aged male:

“Head, throat, and upper part of the neck of an orange red, becoming lighter on the fore-part of the neck; the breast and underparts of an orange-yellow; the feathers of the back, scapulars and rump, of a blackish brown in the middle with a large border of orange-yellow; wings and tail black, the former having two transverse white bands; all the secondary feathers bordered with white; quill- and tail-feathers edged slightly with orange; length seven inches nine lines.

“The male after its first moult, till a year old:

“Head, neck, throat, breast, part of the belly and rump, of a crimson red, the more strong and brilliant as the individual approaches its second moult. Feathers of the back and scapulars black in the middle, with a large border of crimson-red; sides, belly, and lower tail-coverts ash-coloured; two roseate bands cross the wings, and the secondary feathers are largely bordered with the same colour: the quill- and tail-feathers are all edged with light red.

“Adult and young female:

“The females of the year have only the top of the head and the rump reddish; when adult, they have those parts of a brown strongly tinged with orange, the back of the neck and cheeks edged with the same colour; the back and scapulars ashy brown; the under parts ash-coloured with a slight tinge of orange; the wings have two bands of greyish white; all the wing-feathers edged with greenish orange.”

Young (females) are more obscure in their colouring. The nest is built on trees at a short distance from the ground; the eggs are white, without spots, and four or five in number.—We have figured a male and female of their natural size.