

## GREEN GROSBEAK.

*Coccothraustes chloris*, *Flem.*

Le Gros-bec verdier.

THE Green Grosbeak is abundantly dispersed over the whole of Europe, where it is strictly indigenous, and as far as our observation has gone is nowhere migratory. Its natural habits lead it to frequent gardens, orchards, shrubberies and cultivated lands, and it is one of the most familiar and docile of our native birds; its outspread wings and tail during flight attracting the eye with colours which are scarcely surpassed in beauty by any one of the *Fringillide*. When spring has clothed the vegetable world with foliage, the Green Grosbeak constructs its nest on a branch in the most leafy part of shrubs or hedgerows, often at a considerable distance from the ground, the nest being generally composed of leaves, moss, grass and small twigs, lined with wool, hair and a few feathers. The eggs are four or five in number, of a pale blueish white, speckled at the larger end with reddish brown. The young are distinguished from the adult during the greater part of the first autumn by the strong oblong dashes of brown which pervade the breast and under surface. This particular feature, together with the robust bill, short tail, and bulky body, characterizes it as a true Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes*), at the extreme limits of which genus we consider this bird should be placed, where it would appear to form a union with the true species of *Fringilla* as restricted by authors of the present day.

At the commencement of autumn the Green Grosbeak assembles in considerable numbers, with Chaffinches and Buntings, and being driven by the severities of the season from fields and gardens, retires to farm-yards, where a bountiful supply of grain yields it a subsistence.

The male differs from the female in having the plumage more brilliant, and by rather exceeding her in size.

The male has the whole of the upper surface of a bright olive-green, passing into yellow; the quills blackish grey with their outer webs bright gamboge yellow; the tail-feathers, with the exception of the two middle ones, which are grey margined with light yellow, and their exterior edges, which are greyish brown, are of the same fine gamboge yellow as the wings; under parts greenish, passing into sulphurous yellow; legs brown; bill white with a tinge of pink.

Our Plate represents the adult male, and young bird of the first autumn, of the natural size.