croached upon his domain. The Chaffinches of the fine hanging woods of Cliveden and Hedsor rarely descend to the newly-sown radish-beds of the underlying garden of Formosa, nor do those of the primitive forests of Norway resort to the gardens of Christiania and Bergen; but Formosa and all other gardens have Chaffinches of their own, as well as the neighbouring woods, and these certainly do call forth the ire of the gardener for the pertinacity with which they will pick out his spring seeds, devour the young shoots of his early peas, and the like depredations. Chaffinches are, indeed, very destructive to gardens in the spring-time, few birds more so; but immediately they have young, their good offices come into play by the daily destruction of vast numbers of grubs, caterpillars, and perfect insects, which, if unmolested, would commit incalculably greater mischief, especially among our fruit and other trees. The farmer's newly-sown fields of oats and turnips, too, are unsparingly plundered; he has therefore good reason to complain; and hence the bird has, with some degree of truth, acquired a bad name. At this season he is, in fact, both troublesome and annoying; still, were it possible to protect the products of the garden and the field, which are not the natural food of the bird, I would do so rather than destroy a creature at once so beautiful and so useful as it really is. I would then, I say, spare the Chaffinch, and endeavour to find some means by which he may be scared from the newly-sown beds and fields: a string of dangling feathers from the wing of the next pullet your cook may kill will serve to effect this purpose in a garden.

In mentioning the note of this bird, I asserted with truth that it is wanting in variety; on the Continent, however, particularly in Germany, it is "one of the most highly prized of caged songsters, being exceedingly docile and teachable, and having great aptitude for acquiring musical proficiency:" much is it esteemed; and great are the sums given for those which have acquired a more than ordinary excellence in this respect. Bechstein says "that it would not be difficult for him to fill several sheets with observations on the song of this bird, mentions as many as twelve different strains into which it has been divided by his birdloving countrymen. They distinguish each of these by the term Schlag, or trill: thus there is the double trill of the Hartz, the rider's trill, the wine trill, the bridegroom's trill, good-year trill, &c.; and some of these are again divided into several (what shall we call them?) trillettes. In fact, not a note of this bird seems to have escaped the nice ears of the Thüringian foresters, who, in their little villages, amid the dark pine-woods and rugged mountains of their old 'fatherland,' spend much of their leisure time in cultivating the musical powers of the little Chaffinch. One of these knife-smiths (for such is their chief calling) has been known to go to a distance of sixteen German (that is, about eighty) miles for the mere chance of catching a good bird; and it has even been known that a cow has been given in exchange for an accomplished singer. Hence, they have a proverb which says that a 'Chaffinch is worth a cow,' which reminds us that the French also have a proverbial expression in reference to this bird, 'as gay as a Chaffinch,' alluding to its prettily varied plumage, cheerful song, or sprightly manners,—perhaps to all three." "It is remarkable," says the same author, "that the song of these birds varies with the district they inhabit, so that different songs are sung in the forest from those sung in the Hartz; and by this the taste of amateurs is regulated. By this it would seem that these different strains or trills are the natural songs of the birds, capable, however, of being greatly improved by culture. The double trill of the Hartz is the most rare and difficult, and the hearing of this always throws a Thüringian into an ecstacy of delight. To gain such a bird, he will part with a large sum of his hard earnings, although he live on bread and water for a week after."

Are the Chaffinches of the Continent identical with ours, or different birds? My Norwegian notes remind me that I observed a slight diversity between those of that country and of Great Britain; and I well remember how much larger, finer, and more richly coloured they were; the flight-birds seen at Malta also appeared larger than our own; but these differences are too slight, in my opinion, to induce any one to regard the Continental and British birds as more than races of one and the same bird. Local variations of limited extent occur in most species, particularly where they are stationary, as the Chaffinch is in this country.

I have said that the Chaffinch is stationary; for although it is stated that we have accessions from the north in the autumn which leave us again in spring, the greater number are with us at all seasons. Not so, cause them to seek countries further south; and probably those I saw at Malta were en route to northern countries.

After its autumnal moult, the Chaffinch has some very beautiful tints which are not found at any other season: the blue-coloured bill, characteristic of summer, is now changed to flesh-white, the grey of the head is suffused with brown, the tips of the secondaries are yellow instead of white, and yellow also fringes the edges of the primaries; these yellow tints, however, soon fade, and those parts are then white like the shoulders. But little change takes place in the females.

To append a lengthened description of its colouring is unnecessary, as the accompanying Plate correctly represents the two sexes in spring, the season of the Flowering Crab, on which they are drawn.