

appropriates some of the notes of the Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Marsh Warbler, Great Tit, Chimney Swallow, the call of the Red-backed Shrike, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, and the angry cry of the House Sparrow (*grre-grre-re-re-re-re*, uttered several times in succession in a sharp tone); sometimes it begins with these notes, at others it commences with those of the Reed Wren, which are followed by sounds resembling the words *theren-ptiro*, *thiroux-ptiri-ptiree-ptirea*, very quickly repeated in different tones. These songs are heard until the middle of July, after which they are exchanged for a monotonous cry somewhat like *bre-bre* or *gre-grre-re-re-re-re*, which is an indication of anger in both sexes, and which, when the birds are excited, are uttered in a quavering or grinding manner.

“Having paired, the two sexes select a place in which to perform the task of incubation, near which they will admit of no intruders. The nest, which is usually commenced about the 20th of May, is sometimes placed on an angle of the branches of a bush or tree; at others, it is firmly fixed, with spiders' webs and other filamentous materials, to a bifurcation of a branch or of several together. Outwardly it is composed of dried grasses and the stems of flexible plants interwoven with skill; interiorly it is lined with fibrous plants and horsehair, or, in default of these, with the down of the willow, thistle, &c. This thick and deep cup-shaped nest is frequently found in orange- and rose-trees, among bean- and pea-sticks, in the lilac and cypress thickets, and sometimes on fruit-trees and apricot and vine rows. The female rears only one brood in each year: her eggs are four or five in number, of a fleshy hue, tinted with violet or reddish lilac, and marked with spots and lines of reddish black. The parents feed the young with smooth caterpillars, flies, and small worms; and when they are able to leave the nest, both young and old fly over the larger hedges, willow-plots, orchards, and woods in search of the winged insects and caterpillars which there abound, and of which they are very fond. They also haunt the mulberry-trees, and feed on the fruit. Occasionally they descend to the ground for worms, larvæ, and chrysalises; but soon return to the trees, ascend from branch to branch, and search both sides of the leaves for flies and small insects. These families continue together until the time for their migration arrives, when several join company and depart together, in the beginning of September.”

A nest received from Holland was deep and cup-shaped in form, and was externally constructed of dried moss, spiders' webs, a few feathers, wool, and grass, all firmly matted together, and was solely lined with the dried stems of fine grasses. It contained five eggs, of an opaque whitish pink, somewhat sparingly sprinkled with well-defined spots of dark umber.

The two sexes present little or no difference in their colouring, and the ornithologist must resort to dissection if he be desirous of ascertaining the sex of any specimen with certainty.

The Plate represents the bird, rather smaller than life, on a branch of the Larch (*Abies Larix*).