cases where a specimen has not been procured, and I am very doubtful as to the occurrence of this bird out of the primeval forests of the north:—"On Tuesday I had the pleasure of observing several Crested Titmice among some Scotch firs near Craig Lockhart, within about an hour's walk of this city. Their presence was betrayed by their peculiar and incessantly repeated notes; but even after the discovery had been made it was no easy matter to keep the birds in view, owing to their continual restlessness, in which respect, as well as in the amusing variety of their motions, they bore a striking resemblance to the more familiar Blue Titmouse. They kept pretty near together, and for the first twenty minutes or so after my arrival they appeared to be making but a cursory examination of the trees, constantly flitting from branch to branch, and seemingly obtaining but little in the way of food. At length, without any apparent cause, they all flew off to a small clump of Scotch firs standing alone on a more sheltered part of the hill-side. Whether they had received a signal from one of their number who had been sent out to explore, or whether they preferred the comparative shelter of their new position, it is impossible to say; but at any rate it was evident that they had now found an abundant supply of food; for not only did they confine themselves to one single tree, but they also appeared to be directing their attention almost exclusively to the extremities of the smaller branches, to which they might frequently be seen hanging, back downwards, at the same time making vigorous use of their bills In this manner they were still continuing to employ themselves when I left the spot about an half an hour later, having repeatedly, but in vain, endeavoured to ascertain the nature of their food, by examining such of the smaller branches as could be obtained. Although I broke these from the same tree by means of a long stick, the birds were so little alarmed as merely to fly to the opposite side of the tree (which, however, was one of considerable spread), and there remain curiously eyeing me until the interruption ceased.—Edinburgh, Mar. 3, 1862."

"In its habits and actions," says Mr. Hewitson, "the Crested resembles the Blue Tit so closely that, when in the branches of a tree above your head, it is only by the crest that you can distinguish it. It is equally noisy, and always on the move. I have watched them for hours, as in busy pursuit of insects they thronged the branches of some noble English-looking trees, which adorn the outskirts of the forest at Kissingen in Bavaria. They were equally abundant amongst the pine trees; and although it was too late to obtain their eggs, I had the pleasure of discovering one of their nests, and of thus learning something of their nidification. When trees are felled in the forest, their trunks are left standing about two feet above the ground; and in the decayed wood of one of these a hole was scooped to contain the nest of which I have spoken—just such a situation as would have been chosen by the Coal Tit. The nest was formed of dry grass and moss, lined with feathers, and contained five full-fledged young ones, who scrambled out of it as soon as we began to examine them. This species is said to lay from seven to ten eggs; but each of the nests seen by Mr. Hancock contained no more than five, and the one above mentioned the same number."

A Crested Tit which I killed in one of the great pine forests of Norway, had the legs pale blue-grey, the bill black, and the eye brown. The birds were moving about in small companies, uttering a sharp and piercing cry. I observe no outward difference in the sexes. Both have the upright top-knot, a feature which adds much to their elegance. As regards colour, they have but little to recommend them. Their food is insects, like that of the other members of the genus, to which they assimilate in pertness, and in liveliness and activity. The young from the nest resemble the adults, and in this respect they approach the *Pœcilæ*. Specimens from Norway are generally paler in colour, and had fuller crests than the specimens sent me from Scotland.

In Mr. Hewitson's valuable 'Coloured Illustrations of the Eggs of British Birds,' we read that his figure of the egg of this species was taken from a specimen sent to him by Mr. John Hancock, of Newcastle (who found several of its nests in the woods of Morayshire), accompanied by the following note:—"About the middle of April they were only in process of building; but by the sixth of May, when the nests were taken, the eggs were five in number. Whether this be the full complement or not I am unable to say. The nests were all placed in similar situations, in holes of old stumps of trees, from three to six feet above the ground. They were composed of rabbits' or hares' down, a little moss, and a few feathers. At first sight they appeared to be composed entirely of down, but on closer examination they were found to be constructed of the above-mentioned materials."

The Plate represents the two sexes, of the natural size, on a branch of a silver fir.