"The Wax-wing, as observed in Lapland," says Mr. Wolley, "makes a good-sized and substantial nest, but without much indication of advanced art. It is of some depth, and regularly shaped, though built of rather intractable materials. As in those of many other birds in the Arctic forests, the main substance is of the kind of lichen commonly called tree-hair, which hangs so abundantly from the branches of almost every tree. This lichen somewhat resembles a mass of delicate rootlets, or perhaps may be compared to coarse brown wool; but some of it is whitish, and in one nest there is a little of this mixed with the ordinary brown or wool; but some of the nest is strengthened below by a platform of dead twigs, and higher up towards the interior by a greater or less amount of flowering stalks of grass, and occasionally pieces of equisetum. It is also interspersed with a little rein-deer-lichen, perhaps a sprig or two of green moss, and even some pieces of willow cotton. There may also be observed a little of the very fine silvery-looking fibre of grass-leaves, which probably have been reduced to that condition by long soaking in water. In one of the nests examined, there were several pen-feathers of small birds as an apology for a lining.

"Five seems to be the ordinary number of eggs; in one nest only there were as many as six. They have a pale salmon-coloured ground, upon which are distributed pretty equally good-sized purple spots, some with more and some with less deep colour, but nearly all of them having a shade or penumbra, such as is common especially in eggs of the Chaffinch." I should be wanting in courtesy, were I not to acknowledge that I am indebted to Mr. Afred Newton for a fine set of five eggs of this bird, taken by Mr. Wolley.

"Myself and two Finnish gentlemen," says Mr. Dresser, "arrived at Sanden, a small island out at sea, about forty versts from Uleaborg, about two in the morning, and as soon as we had moored the boat, set off to see if there was anything in the natural-history way to be got there, but were so plagued with mosquitoes that we returned to the boat to sleep for a time. Just before reaching the boat, I saw a bird in a fir-tree which appeared like a Wax-wing; I therefore shot it, and on examination my conjecture proved to be correct; it was a hen bird, and appeared to have been sitting. After sleeping for an hour or two, we proceeded to the middle of the island, and dispersed in search of the nest, without for some time meeting with success. At length, following in the track of one of my friends, and seeing him waiting for me under a tree, I went towards him; and on approaching the tree, I saw, at about nine feet from the ground, a nest with four young birds sitting bolt upright in it. I scrambled up the tree; but just as I put up my hand, the birds flew out. I jumped down immediately, and secured the largest. Upon being handled, it cried out pretty loudly, when a flock of nine old birds issued from a clump of fir-trees, two of which came quite close and called incessantly. Believing that they were the parents of my little captive, I shot them both. I then remained still, and tried to imitate the cries of the old birds, in which I succeeded so well that a young bird came out of a clump of heather and began chirping most lustily. This I caught, and then secured the nest, which was firmly fixed between the bole and the lowest branch of the tree; it was carelessly made of dried sticks and moss, and had a rotten egg still remaining within it. This was on the 4th of July, 1858. A few days later I observed one or two old birds near Uleaborg town. Professor Nordmann informed me that the Waxwing has also been seen near Abo, and was supposed to have bred there. Magnus von U'right also shot a young bird, while flying about with two others in the month of August 1855 or 1856, near Knopio; it is now in the Museum at Helsingfors."

In a letter received from Professor Rasch of Christiania, in September 1858, that gentlemen says, "Mr. Barth has this summer found Ampelis garrulus breeding in Gülbransdalen," just to the north of Jerkin.

I observe that specimens killed in North America and Japan are somewhat smaller than those obtained in Europe, but do not differ in colour or markings; and the trifling variation in size is not, in my opinion, of sufficient importance to warrant their being regarded as more than races of the same species. In some instances the white tippings of the primaries are absent, having been worn off or not yet assumed.

The food of the Wax-wing is of a mixed character; for doubtless in summer it mainly subsists on insects, while in winter it feeds upon berries of various kinds, particularly those of the hawthorn, the mountain ash, the holly, and the ivy; and, from the numbers of this bird which occasionally visit this country and Central Europe, sometimes in flocks of twenties, fifties, or hundreds, the supply will scarcely be equal to the demand. I have heard that in Germany and other parts of the Continent it is frequently killed for the purpose of the table: Heaven save us from doing this in England! Return, fairy bird, to the land of thy birth; thou hast run a gauntlet dangerous to thy safety while here.

The Plate represents a male, a female, a nest, and five young birds, all of the natural size.