favour us with its presence, it is mostly in the winter, especially if that season happens to be severe. A distinct species is found in Japan; and the A. cedrorum, as we all know, frequents America.

Family SITTIDÆ.

Taking our common Nuthatch as a typical example, and omitting the members of the allied subgenera Callisitta, Dendrophila, and Hypherpes, there exist about a dozen species of this family, some, if not all, possessing the peculiarity of being able to run up and run down the boles of trees with equal facility. They frequent the temperate portions of Europe, Asia, and America.

NUTHATCH.

This species is not, as has been supposed, entirely confined to Britain; for it is also found in some of the Danish islands and elsewhere. With us it is stationary and common all over England, but is somewhat rare in Cornwall, very scarce in Scotland, and never found in Ireland.

Family PARIDÆ.

More than a hundred species of Tits have been already named; and there are doubtless many more yet to be described. The countries frequented by these tree-loving birds are Europe, Asia, Japan, the Philippines, Java, and Sumatra. Africa, also, from north to south, contains its fair quota; nor are they absent from America, in which country they are principally found in its northern regions. Structurally they present much variety; and in consequence the entire group has been divided into many genera. In the British Islands, exclusive of the so-called Bearded Tit, which belongs to an entirely different family, we have six species, which constitute the typical examples of almost as many genera. I have, however, only adopted a portion of them, keeping four in the genus *Parus*, one in *Pæcile*, and one in *Mecistura*. The chief food of the Tits consists of insects and their larvæ, with occasionally the addition of fruit. They are mostly pert and lively birds, assuming many varied positions while searching for food among the leafy branches of trees and shrubs.

Genus Parus.

GREAT TIT.

Resident and common over the three kingdoms. Breeds in April and May. Youthful birds have their cheeks stained with yellow, while in the adult the sides of the face are white.

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Generally distributed over Central Europe,