

birds which might be mistaken for Pine Grosbeaks are the two species of Crossbills, the American and the White-winged, but these birds have, as their name implies, the mandibles of the bill crossed and both species are only about 6 inches in length. The Pine Grosbeak breeds in New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Labrador and other northerly portions of Canada, as far north as the limit of trees. The nest is usually placed in conifers and is composed exteriorly of twigs and rootlets, interiorly of dry grass. The eggs are usually four in number, greenish-blue, spotted with dark-brown, drab and pale lavender.

In the winter this species comes far south of its breeding-range. Like most of our winter birds its visits to a given locality are irregular, it may appear during several successive winters and then be absent for several years, but on the average in Ontario it appears during alternate winters. Sometimes a flock or two are observed in the fall and perhaps again in the spring at a certain place and that is all that is seen of them; at other times they remain throughout the winter as they did at Guelph in 1903-04, when they arrived on November 5th and were common until March 24th.

This year they arrived in Kingston about Nov. 1st and have been seen in flocks of 8 to 30, feeding on the fruit of the Mountain Ash trees, the two trees opposite the Post Office being their favorite lunch-counters.

During the breeding season the Pine Grosbeak feeds largely upon the seeds of the Spruce. While on its winter sojourn with us it feeds on the buds of the Maple, Elm, Larch, Spruce, Cedar, and Pine, the fruit of the Mountain Ash, seeds of apples which may still be hanging on the trees, the fruits of the Ragweed, Water Smart-weed (*P. hydropiper*), and Blueweed, and the seeds of the Nightshade (*S. dulcamara*). Usually the winter trips of the Pine Grosbeak extends only as far south as southern New England and Ohio, but occasionally they reach the District of Columbia and Kansas.

As they are with us only in the winter and early spring we do not hear their song in its full power, we hear only the low, sweet, warbling prelude of what becomes in their northern breeding-ground a rich clear song.

Coming as they do from the far north, where they are not molested by the pseudo-sportsman who must "kill something" or by the small boy with the .22 cal. rifle, these interesting birds are very tame and give one an excellent opportunity for a study of bird-life at close range.—A. B. K. '09.

The New Degrees in Pedagogy.

QUEEN'S is to be commended on establishing a Department of Pedagogy. This step is taken at an opportune time, for no one knows what will be the final policy of the Education Department. The removal of the Ontario Normal College from Hamilton will not simplify but rather complicate matters as far as professional training of teachers is concerned. Accordingly Queen's will be in a position to meet the new conditions that are involved, whatever the issue may be. But the purpose of this article is not to discuss the Educational policy but to comment on the value of degrees in Pedagogy.