

ingly. After eating just five bushels of peas each, they were killed, and made 1,275 lbs. of as fine pork as I ever saw. The value of the pigs, before fattening, was estimated at \$6 each, and that amount was offered for them for the American market, then very good. The peas were worth 60¢ a bushel.

The account would stand thus :

Do.	
5 Berkshire hogs, at \$1	\$5.00
25 bushels peas, at 60¢	15.00
	—\$15.00
Can.	

By 1,275 lbs. of pork at 6 cts. per lb. \$76.50

Showing a profit of \$11.50, or about \$6.25 each. The conclusion is, that to feed pigs

Natural History.

The Pine Grosbeak.

(*Strobilophaga castaneola*.)

During the present winter we have been favoured by a visitor from the north, the Pine Grosbeak.

This handsome bird has been seen in several parts of the Province in considerable numbers, and has contributed not a little to enliven our woods. Its home in the summer is in the northern parts of our own continent and those of Europe and Asia. It generally visits Canada and some of the northern United States in the winter, and returns in the spring, passing Hudson's Bay in May.

in the accompanying illustration. The absence of colour in the engraving makes the difference less conspicuous than in nature.

These birds live in pine forests, feeding on buds of various kinds, and on the seeds of the fir cones. Their note is sweet and clear, and Wilson, who had one for some time in captivity, says that it would sing for a whole morning, and imitated several of the notes of a Red-bird which hung near it. He describes it as being exceedingly tame, and states that it would ask for food or water with a continuous, melancholy, anxious cry.

Another bird, much smaller in size, but with plumage remarkably like that of the Grosbeak, has been frequently seen in Canada during the past mild winter. The similarity is so close that they have been commonly



on peas does not pay, as the pigs and peas are worth more than the pork; but my case was different. It certainly paid to raise pigs at \$6 each when put up to food, and it certainly paid to fat them on peasoup, at a profit of \$6.25 each.

C.

From some carefully collected and very extensive notes made by Lord Spencer on the period of gestation of 764 cows, it resulted that the shortest period of gestation when a live calf was produced was 220 days, and the longest 315 days; but he was not able to rear any calf produced at an earlier period than 242 days. From the result of his experiments it appears that 314 cows calved before the 284th day, and 310 calved after the 285th, so that the probable period of gestation ought to be considered 284 or 285 days.

It is a comparatively large bird, measuring about nine inches in length, and its plumage is unusually gay for the regions which it inhabits, the head, neck, and breast being of a rich crimson hue. The feathers of the back are black, edged with crimson. The female is somewhat smaller in size, and of much more sombre plumage, the prevailing colour being slate or grey, with a greenish yellow tinge in part taking the place of the crimson markings of the male. The young males very much resemble the females, so much so, indeed, as not to be easily distinguished, except on close examination, when they will be seen to be a little larger, and to have rather more and a somewhat brighter tint of the greenish yellow colour, especially along the back.

The male and female birds are represented

mistaken for a smaller variety of the same bird, whereas they are quite distinct, and belong to a different genus. This smaller bird is the White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucopetra*), and it can at once be distinguished by its very peculiar bill, which looks almost as if it were a deformity, the two mandibles crossing each other near the tip. This peculiarity, which gives the name to the species, is no *usus nature*, however, or freak of nature, but a wise provision to enable the bird to extract more readily the seeds of fir cones, &c., from the situations in which they are embedded.

The White-winged Crossbill is a much rarer bird with us than the Grosbeak, yet both have been frequently seen together in flocks of various sizes during the present winter, in several parts of the Province.