ingly. After eating just five bushels of near 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 the a bushel.

The account would stand thus 9

14:0

5 Berkshire hogs, at \$1........ \$.00 

## Natural History.

## The Pine Grosbeak

(Strobilaphage conclettor.)

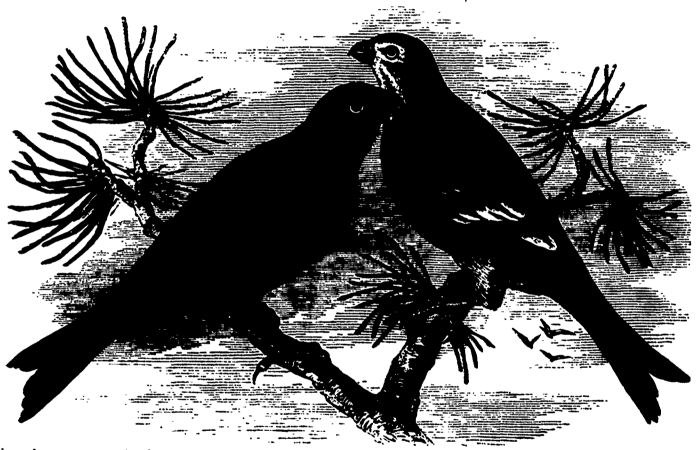
favoured by a visitor from the north, the captivity, says that it would sing for a whole Pine Grosbrak.

This hand-ome bird has been seen in sevcral parts of the Province in considerable numbers, and has contributed not a little to -\$15 on enliven our woods. Its home in the summer is in the northern parts of our own continent By 1,275 lbs, of pork at 6 cis. per 15. \$76.75 and those of Europe and Asia. It generally visits Canada and some of the northern Showing a profit of \$31-53, or also it \$4.25. United States in the winter, and returns in

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

These birds live in pine forests, feeding on had- of various kinds, and on the seeds of the fir cones. Their note is sweet and clear. During the present winter we have been and Wilson, who had one for some time in morning, and imitated several of the notes of a Red-bird which bung 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 similar. each. The common idea is, that to feed pigs the spring, passing Hudson's Bay in May, its 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 about nine inches in length, and its plumage was different. It certainly paid to raise is unusually gay for the regions which it inpigs at \$6 each when put up to feed, will if habits, the head, neek, and breast being of certainly paid to fire them on peassonp, at a scriph column line. The feethers of the back profit of \$6 25 each.

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.

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 that of the greenish yellow colour, especially along the back.

It is a comparatively large bird, measuring | 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 leucoptera), 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 lusus natura. 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 rater bird with us than the Grosbeak, yet both have been frequently seen together in flocks of various sizes during the pres-The male and female birds are represented | out winter, in several parts of the Province.