

causes them to have little fear of him when they come south, and one may approach quite closely to examine them.

Their food in winter consists of almost any of the persistent fruits. A favorite food is the seeds of the mountain ash, which they pick from the trees and even from the ground where they have been blown by heavy winds. This winged fruit they dissect taking only the meat. Apples left upon the trees are also eaten. At times the pulp is cast away and only the seeds eaten, and again their crops have been found to contain the pulp. They also feed upon the fruit of the sumach. Their never failing diet is the tips of twigs of the fir trees. These tips are bitten off, and to reach them the birds at times hang nearly upside down, as the lithe limbs bend with the weight of the birds. When this food has been eaten the bill is coated with balsam. Elm buds also are eaten after they begin to swell in spring.

The flight of the pine grosbeak is slightly undulating, and when on the wing they often emit a soft loud whistle, by imitating which they may be induced to alight near by. Some ornithologists claim that this species nests far north, and so early in the spring that the eggs are laid before the snow has gone. This may be true, but it is also true that they breed in New Brunswick in the month of July.

PURPLE FINCH *Carpodacus purpureus*.

This species is in appearance a small edition of the pine grosbeak. The males much resemble each other in color, but the females and young males of the purple finch lack the yellowish breast and rump of the grosbeak. This species stayed throughout the winter of 1902-3. They were often heard to sing, but the song lacked the energy that is given it during the nuptial season. The song of the young male is not so rich as that of the adult male, and consists of a few short notes in place of the long, flowing song of adult. The males do not attain the purple plumage until the second year. Their food in spring is buds of various trees, the favourite being those of the poplar and the balsamy buds of the fir; later, insects are added to the bill of fare. An adult male was observed in October eating the woolly aphid which infests alder bushes. Although arriving from the south early in spring the nesting season is deferred until after the middle of June.