

below it is white and spotted with the general color of the back. I have seen the Purple Finch during spring and summer only, but it is known to pass the winter here.

THE REDPOLL.

The Redpoll is a smaller bird than the Purple Finch. The crown of the head is red, as we might conclude from its name. The rump also is red or white, but is always streaked. The back is streaked with dusky and flaxen. It is often seen here in winter, and before it departs in early spring the breast of the male assumes a rosy tint and then it bears some resemblance to the Purple Finch, particularly when it faces towards you. But it can be even then known by the black spot always seen under the chin of the Redpoll.

Its home is in the far north. There it is seen enduring the extreme cold of the Arctic regions without apparent discomfort. Scarcity of food is believed to be the cause of its migrations southward. Its food consists of seeds—the seeds of such plants as are commonly known as weeds.

THE AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.

The Goldfinch is a prettily-attired bird, and is easily identified. The plumage is chiefly a golden-yellow, with the wings, tail and forehead black. These are the markings of the male bird. The female is plainer, being inclined to olive above, a dull yellowish below, with the wings and tail dusky. As far as I know they do not remain with us in winter, but migrate southwards. The male does not retain his bright colors during the whole year. In the autumn he assumes the same color as the female. The Goldfinch is sometimes called the Thistle Bird, for it is not an unusual sight to see one perched upon a thistle, the seeds of which are devoured by these birds. They frequent cultivated fields and orchards, and may be often seen passing from field to field in an undulating flight—singing a short chirping song.

PINE SISKIN.

The Pine Siskin, or Pine Linnet, has not the thick bill usually found among the finches. It is a plain bird in comparison with its generic relative, the Goldfinch. It is streaked above with dusky and olive brown; below with dusky and whitish. In spring there is a good deal of yellow intermingled with these colors. The yellow is brightest on the rump and at the bases of tail and wing feathers. It is the same size as the Goldfinch, and this size