



PINE GROSBEAK.

Every few winters, at intervals of four or five years, our newspapers contain inquiries regarding "strange-looking birds" that visit the gardens and parks in small flocks and feed on the berries of the mountain ash and seeds of various trees. Just why the people have not learned to recognize the pine grosbeaks seems strange, for they are large and handsome birds, somewhat stouter than a robin and as showily costumed, and as they visit us in winter only are peculiarly conspicuous. The adult male in full plumage is an exceptionally attractive fellow. At a little distance his entire plumage appears to be of a bright red tint, but a closer inspection reveals dusky streaks on his back and a dull grayish tint on his belly. The wings bear two white bars. Many of the males do not wear so much of the brighter tint, which varies in individuals from rich carmine to deep rosy-red, and their plumes are more or less washed with the gray and yellowish bronze which predominate in the costume of the females and younger males. The females wear no roseate hues, but are very handsomely