

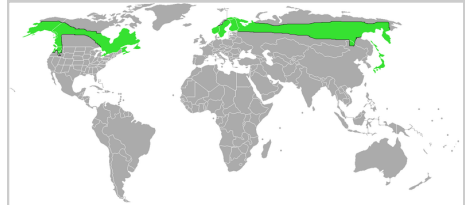
# THE COLOURFUL GROSBEAKS

## #4 THE GROSBEAK BULLFINCHES

### PINE GROSBEAK



The Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*, is a large member of the true finch family, Fringillidae. It is found in coniferous woods across Alaska, the western mountains of the United States, Canada, and in subarctic Fennoscandia\*



and Siberia. It is a very rare vagrant to temperate parts of Europe; For instance, in Germany no more than four individuals have been recorded each year since 1980, and in some years none at all.

Mature birds have a long forked black tail, black wings with white wing-bars and a large bill. Adult males have a rose-red head, back and rump. Adult females are olive-yellow on the head and rump and grey on the back and underparts. Young birds have a less contrasting plumage overall, appearing scruffy when they moult their coloured head plumage.



Their vocalisation varies geographically, and includes a whistled *pui pui pui* or *chii-vli*. The song is a short musical warble.



They breed in coniferous forests. The nest is built on a horizontal branch or fork of a conifer. The Pine Grosbeak is a permanent resident throughout most of its range; but when food is scarce, they sometimes migrate further south.

IMMATURE MALE

They forage for food in trees and bushes. Their diet consists of seeds, buds, berries and insects. In the non-breeding season, they often gather in flocks to feed.

\*Fennoscandia is a geographic and geological term used to describe the Scandinavian Peninsula, the Kola Peninsula, Karelia and Finland.

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia