

represented by any consonant in our alphabet. It was also perfectly smooth in execution and mellow, flute-like in tone. The French *u* if dwelt upon, with inflections and modulations, as uttered by a sweet voiced Parisienne might closely, I imagine, represent the sound. After a while this singer came from his concealment, and, poising on an outer spray, there sang for eight or ten minutes, before flitting off, to be again hidden by the neighboring foliage. — THOMAS PROCTOR, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

**Spring Molt in *Spinus pinus*.** — In a paper published in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia, 1896, p. 141, I stated that so far as I could judge from available material the Pine Finch had no spring molt. A series of specimens taken at West Chester, Chester Co., Pa., in May, 1897, by Dr. T. H. Montgomery shows, however, that quite an extensive renewal of the feathers occurs at this season. It of course does not extend to the remiges and rectrices. As my former statement was liable to be misleading, I take this opportunity to correct it. — WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**An Earlier Name for *Ammodramus leconteii*.** — *Fringilla caudacuta* LATHAM (Index Orn. I, 1790, 459) is usually cited as a doubtful synonym of *F. passerina* WILSON, but reference to the description shows that Latham's bird is Leconte's Sparrow. The description, though brief, fits the latter bird very exactly, both as to coloration and dimensions, and the locality, interior of Georgia, is within the regular winter range of the species. Fortunately no change of specific name is, in this instance, necessary, the *Oriolus caudacutus* of Gmelin, described two years before, being a member of the same genus, even if it should be found desirable to recognize *Coturniculus* as a separate genus from *Ammodramus*; for *A. leconteii* is certainly more nearly related to *A. caudacutus* than to either *Coturniculus passerinus* or *C. henslowii*. — ROBERT RIDGWAY, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**The Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) in Massachusetts.** — In a small private collection of mounted birds in Arlington, Mass., I find an adult Seaside Sparrow with the following history: shot by Mr. Eugene H. Freeman on the bank of the Neponset River, at high tide, about half way between Milton Lower Mills and Granite Bridge, on the Milton side of the river. Unfortunately the date of capture is not recorded; it was in the early autumn, however, something over twenty years ago, so Mr. Freeman tells me.

In most of the older lists of the birds of Massachusetts the Seaside Sparrow is said to be a common summer resident of the salt marshes along the coast. This opinion doubtless arose from confounding the Seaside Sparrow with the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). That such a confusion prevailed is shown by the fact that many of the old lists (*e. g.*, Emmons's 'Birds of Mass.,' Holder's 'Birds of Lynn,')