

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,')

and Putnam's 'Birds of Essex Co.') exclude *A. caudacutus* altogether! Even Dr. Coues (Proc. Essex Inst., V, 1868, 282), by a lapsus corrected in 'New England Bird Life,' I, 251, recorded the Sharp-tails of Rye Beach, N. H., as Seaside Sparrows, and J. Matthew Jones ('Forest and Stream,' XII, 1879, 106) in his list of the birds of Nova Scotia included the Seaside Sparrow as an abundant summer resident of that Province, arriving there during the latter part of March! From what is now known concerning the breeding range of *A. maritimus*, we are warranted in suspecting that Brewer (Hist. N. A. Birds, I, 1874, 560), too, fell into a similar error in saying that a few pairs of Seaside Sparrows, "identified by Mr. Audubon," bred in the marshes of Stony Brook, near Boston, in 1836 and 1837.

However that may be, the eastern limit of the breeding range of the Seaside Sparrow, so far as now observed, is the western shore of Narragansett Bay, beyond which it occurs only as a very rare straggler. The first unquestionable Massachusetts specimen was killed at Nahant in August, 1877, by Geo. O. Welch, and recorded by Brewer (Bull. Nuttall Orn. Club, III, 1878, 48; Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XIX, 1878, 260). This specimen (now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History, No. 221) is a young male with a sharply streaked breast; it was identified by Baird as a Seaside Sparrow "in the plumage regarded by Audubon as a distinct species, and called by him MacGillivray's Finch." Another Massachusetts specimen, an adult female shot by Dr. L. B. Bishop on Monomoy Island, Cape Cod, April 14, 1890, was recorded by J. C. Cahoon in 'The Auk,' VII, 1890, 289. — WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

What is *Fringilla macgillivraii* Aud.? — In 1835 Audubon (Orn. Biog., II, 1835, 285) described under the name *Fringilla macgillivraii* a dark-colored Seaside Finch, discovered by Bachman in the salt marshes of South Carolina. Figures of this bird, drawn at Charleston by Audubon's son, were announced as finished, but the plate did not reach London in time to be engraved and published till two years later (Birds of America, Vol. IV, 1837, Pl. CCCLV). In a subsequent volume of the 'Ornithological Biography' (IV, 1838, 394) Audubon extended the range of MacGillivray's Finch so as to include similar birds found on the coast of Louisiana and Texas.

In 1888 Mr. Allen (Auk, V, 1888, 284) described under the name *Ammodramus maritimus peninsulae* a small, dark race of the Seaside Sparrow from Tarpon Springs and Cedar Keys, on the western coast of Florida, at the same time identifying with this form a series of specimens from Grand Isle, La. In the following number of 'The Auk' (p. 426) Mr. Allen pronounced a bird from the coast of Georgia to be *A. m. peninsulae*, and in the second edition of the A. O. U. Check-List the distribution of this subspecies on the Atlantic coast embraces South Carolina, the type locality of *Fringilla macgillivraii*.