

present case, the alteration in a specific term makes necessary a corresponding correction throughout a long list of subspecies. Under our rules of nomenclature, however, there seems no doubt of the untenability of *Melospiza fasciata*; since *Fringilla fasciata* Gmelin (Syst. Nat., 1788, I, 922) used for the Song Sparrow, is preoccupied by *Fringilla fasciata* Müller (Syst. Nat., Anhang, 1776, 165), which is a synonym of *Spinus pinus*. The only available name for the eastern Song Sparrow is *Fringilla melodia* Wilson (Am. Orn., 1810, II, 125, pl. XVI, fig. 4), and the species consequently should be called *Melospiza melodia*.

Fringilla guttata Nuttall (Man. Orn., ed. 2, 1840, I, 581), which is now *Melospiza fasciata guttata*, is debarred by *Fringilla guttata* Vieillot (Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., 1817, XII, 233), for an Australian Weaver-bird. As the Rusty Song Sparrow seems to have no other name, it may be called *Melospiza melodia morphna*.

The Song Sparrows will then stand as follows:

Melospiza melodia melodia (Wilson).

Melospiza melodia fallax (Baird).

Melospiza melodia montana (Henshaw).

Melospiza melodia heermanni (Baird).

Melospiza melodia samuelis (Baird).

Melospiza melodia morphna Oberholser.

Melospiza melodia rufina (Bonaparte).

Melospiza melodia rivularis (Bryant).

Melospiza melodia graminea (Townsend).

Melospiza melodia clementæ (Townsend).

Melospiza melodia cooperi (Ridgway).

Melospiza melodia pusillula (Ridgway).

Melospiza melodia caurina (Ridgway).

Melospiza melodia mexicana Ridgway.

Melospiza melodia adusta (Nelson).

Melospiza melodia goldmani (Nelson).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER,
Washington, D. C.

On the name *Xenocichla*.—Of late years the term *Xenocichla* has been in quite general use for a group of Ethiopian Bulbuls, having as its type the *Dasycephala syndactyla* of Swainson. *Xenocichla* was founded by Hartlaub in his 'Orn. Westaflicas,' 1857, p. 86, but in the list of additions and corrections on p. 272, the name is noted as being equivalent to *Bledu* Bonap. The exact place of publication of Bonaparte's name seems to have puzzled recent ornithologists, and we find it quoted at second hand and without date in Waterhouse's 'Index' and Sharpe's 'Catalogue of Birds.' The proper reference is Rev. et Mag. de Zool., Feb. 1857, 50, which antedates Hartlaub's work by at least two months. The type being the same in both cases, *Xenocichla* becomes a perfect synonym of *Bledu*, which should henceforth be used. The species of the genus, as recently restricted by Shelley, are *Bledu syndactyla* (Swains.),

B. poliocephala (Reichenow), *B. xavieri* (Oust.), *B. notata* (Cass.), *B. eximia* (Hartl.), and *B. canicapilla* (Hartl.).—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, Washington, D. C.

Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogastra*).—Within a few yards of the house occupied by Mr. John R. Sandsbury during the time he is caring for the Terns on Muskeget Island, and where I make my headquarters when visiting there, is an old shed or boathouse which has several apertures. This shed has been used as a nesting place for the past six years by apparently the same pair of Barn Swallows. At my request Mr. S. made a few notes on these birds, which arrived this year (1898) on May 29. It is their custom to repair the old nest, they never having built any since the first one. Four young birds were hatched this season. The old birds would occasionally fly into the sitting-room of the house, but were always frightened on getting inside. When I was visiting Muskeget this summer (July 2-5, 1898), I found, in addition to the old pair of birds, still another pair, apparently birds of last year, assisting in feeding the four young ones in the nest. This they continued to do up to July 10, the date on which the young left the nest. On this date they were all flying about together, the young going at intervals to the nest to rest. On July 11, there were only the two original old birds and the four young ones, and they remained around until July 19, the young returning to the nest every night. The young birds were so tame that they would alight on, and even run over Mr. Sandsbury's fingers while he rested his hand upon a beam which was near the nest. They returned occasionally up to August 1, but were not so tame, alighting on top of the shed and on the clothes line near the house. At this latter date the group consisted of the two old birds and the four young.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, Nantucket, Mass.

Another Example of Curious Nesting of the American Redstart.—Mr. Verdi Burtch, in the October Auk, 1898, recorded a curious example of the American Redstart's nesting, and having had a somewhat similar experience, it may be of interest to record it.

June 3, 1898, I had been collecting about a swamp in the vicinity of Dorchester, Mass., and at noon sought the shade of a wood lot near. A female Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) at once attracted my attention by her queer ways. I retired for a short distance and the bird settled upon a Vireo's nest, which was situated four and a half feet above the ground in a sapling. It contained five Redstart eggs. One of these was entirely buried beneath the others, in a thick lining of horse hair. The yolk of this egg had settled and hardened. The other four were fresh.

As numbers of Redstarts' eggs are annually stolen by boys from this wood, it may be possible that the following theory accounts for this strange thing. An incomplete set of Redstart eggs was taken; the female laid in the Vireo nest during the absence of the owners rather than deposit