

Subfamily ALAUDINÆ, *Bonap.*Genus MIRAFRA, *Horsf.*

One, if not two, species of this well-defined genus inhabit Australia. At present one only has been characterized; but the bird of this form, frequenting the intertropical portions of the country, may prove to be a distinct species.

230. *Mirafra Horsfieldii*, *Gould* Vol. III. Pl. 77.

Family FRINGILLIDÆ, *Vig.*

The Finches of Australia comprise twenty well-marked species, referable to several genera or subgenera, each of which exhibit a slight difference in structure, accompanied, as is always the case, by a difference in habit, and in the districts inhabited; thus the true *Estreldeæ* frequent grassy patches in the glades of the forests, the open parts of gullies, &c.; the *Amadinæ*, the stony hills and flats; the *Poëphilaæ*, the grass beds of the open plains; and the *Donacoleæ*, the grasses of the marshy districts and reed-beds: of the habits of *Emblema* nothing is known; its pointed bill indicates some peculiarity in its economy differing from those of the other genera.

All the species build, I believe, large grassy nests with a spout-like opening.

The whole of those figured are peculiar to Australia.

Genus ESTRELDA, *Swains.*

231. *Estrelde bella* Vol. III. Pl. 78.
Loxia nitida, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. v. p. 268?
 232. *Estrelde oculatea* Vol. III. Pl. 79.
 233. *Estrelde Bichenovii* Vol. III. Pl. 80.
 234. *Estrelde annulosa*, *Gould* Vol. III. Pl. 81.
 235. *Estrelde temporalis* Vol. III. Pl. 82.
 236. *Estrelde Phaëton*, *Gould* Vol. III. Pl. 83.
 237. *Estrelde ruficauda*, *Gould* Vol. III. Pl. 84.
 238. *Estrelde modesta*.
Amadina modesta, *Gould* Vol. III. Pl. 85.

Genus AMADINA, *Swains.*

239. *Amadina Lathamii* Vol. III. Pl. 86.
 240. *Amadina castanotis*, *Gould* Vol. III. Pl. 87.

Genus POËPHILA, *Gould.*

Generic characters.

Bill considerably swollen at the base, rendering it nearly as deep and broad as it is long; *wings* moderately long, the first quill rudimentary, the four next equal in length; *feet* plantigrade, *toes* slender; the middle toe much longer than the lateral ones, which are equal in length; hind-toe much shorter than the middle one; *tail* strictly cuneiform, the two middle feathers much produced.

241. *Poëphila Gouldiæ*.
Amadina Gouldiæ, *Gould* Vol. III. Pl. 88.
 242. *Poëphila mirabilis*, *Homb. et Jacq.* Vol. III. Pl. 89.