

CORRESPONDENCE.

The So-called Cancelled Fasciculus of Cassin's Illustrations.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK:'—

Dear Sirs:—In the Bibliographical Appendix to Coues's 'Birds of the Colorado Valley,' there appears this citation: "1853. CASSIN, J. Untitled fasciculus of his Illustrations of the Birds of Texas, California," etc. Then follow these notes: "The first part issued of this work was a trial or specimen number, which was cancelled as unsatisfactory, and is therefore scarcely citable. Several bound copies, however, are extant; they bear no title, date, or imprint, and are not paged. They consist of 15ll. of text and 5 pll., representing *Xanthura luxuosa*, *Melanerpes formicivorus*, *Chamaea fasciata*, *Lophophanes atricristatus*, and *Crytonyx masena*. See 1853-55 and 1856, Cassin, J."

There is a copy of the fasciculus in the Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and an examination will show that the preceding citation and notes are erroneous in almost every respect. To begin with, the fasciculus has a paper cover bearing the following title: 'Illustrations | of the | Birds of California, Texas, | and | British and Russian America. | Intended to comprise all the species of North America except Mexico, not figured by | former American authors, and to serve as | a supplement | to the octavo edition of | Audubon's Birds of America. | By | John Cassin, | . . . and | Henry L. Stevens, | . . . To be completed in thirty numbers, published monthly. | Philadelphia: | King & Baird, Printers, No. 9 Sanson Street. | 1852.

From this it will be seen that not only is there a title, but its wording is quite different from Cassin's 'Illustrations,' (1853-55); that the work has a joint authorship; and that the date of publication is 1852.

The pages are numbered at the bottom, each species separately, *i. e.*, the text relating to the Mexican Jay is numbered 1-4, and the synopsis of the genus *Parus*, 1-5. In the later work six pages are devoted to the Mexican Jay, while the synopsis of the genus *Parus* is reduced to four, showing that the text was considerably changed in this issue.

It is not likely that the fasciculus under consideration was cancelled as unsatisfactory, at least as far as the plates are concerned, as they are superior to those of the later work, and were drawn and lithographed by Henry L. Stephens; those in the later work (1853-55) were drawn by Geo. G. White and Wm. E. Hitchcock, and lithographed, printed and colored by J. T. Bowen. The earlier plates, five in all, are not numbered, and if numbered according to their insertion would compare as follows with those in the first part of the later work:

