

Donacola pectoralis. Pictorella.—The common finch of the 'pindan,' where it frequents the spinifex in flocks.

Bathilda ruficauda. Star Finch.—Frequents the thick vegetation of the river, but is not common and is rarely seen. Nests containing eggs were found in cane-grass on August 17, 1947.

Neochmia phaëton. Crimson Finch.—Common on the river, favouring pandanus and cane-grass. Observed feeding grown young in April and May.

Poëphila acuticauda. Long-tailed Finch.—Several were seen close to the Grant Range in early March 1947.

Oriolus sagittatus. Olive-backed Oriole.—Rarely observed and I believe it uncommon in this area.

Chlamydera nuchalis. Great Bower-bird.—Fairly common, especially about Paradise house. Three bowers were located—two on Mt. Wynne Creek and another on a sand-hill in spinifex country. A nest with one egg was found on a sand-hill on July 22, 1947.

Corvus cecillae. Crow.—Observed only occasionally.

Cracticus nigrogularis. Pied Butcher-bird.—Fairly common. Sometimes it calls at night. A nest containing three eggs was found on September 9, 1948.

Notes from Fiji.—There does not appear to be a great variety of birds in Fiji. I have been to a few outlying parts of Viti Levu and am shortly leaving for a few weeks on the Lau Group. The Indian Myna and the Bulbul are everywhere; the latter seems to me to show much more of a white rump than I recollect seeing around Sydney. Apparently Viti Levu is the only island of the Fiji group with the mongoose. They tell me that since its introduction it is several years since a snake has been found here and one Fijian told me he had even seen one kill a sea-snake on the inner edge of the reef. They have killed off most of the ground-building birds, but I have already seen a fair number of Swamp Harriers (*Circus approximans*) so possibly they may be able to hold their own with the mongoose.

Last week I went out to Lavua. A Mr. Belcher there has made an intensive study of Fijian birds and has over 100 beautiful paintings made from skins and from tame and live specimens—life size or nearly. For a self-taught artist I think his results are remarkable. I went over them with Mayr's *Birds of the Southwest Pacific* to revise some of the specific names. He has been most meticulous in trying to get exact proportions and colour and surroundings and the position and attitude of the few I know are most life-like and have none of the grotesque attitudes one sees in say Audubon. He has received a good offer for them from America which he is considering but says he does not want to let them go unless they are to be given publicity rather than buried in some private collection. He collected here with Casey Wood and also met Beck and other ornithologists.—ERIC POCKLEY, Suva, Fiji, 11/4/48.