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The Nutmeg Finch.—During the early part of last summer (1949-50) a new species of finch appeared in the Murphy's Creek district. It was evident that it was not a native species and no finch resembling it could be found in any of my books of reference. I sent a description of the bird to Mr. George Mack, Director of the Queensland Museum, who was confident that it was the Nutmeg Finch (*Lonchura punctulata*).

Originally there were two pairs, but their numbers were increased to twelve birds after they had nested during the summer or early autumn. I did not actually discover any nests but it was very evident, by the presence of birds in juvenile plumage that breeding had taken place. The adult birds were brown with glossy black bills and the young birds were brown of a little lighter shade, and their bills were lead-blue. I have been informed by a friend who knows the Nutmeg Finch well that the colour of the bill distinguishes the adult from the juvenile.

The call is a whistling note resembling the call note of the Plum-headed Finch (with which species it has apparently been confused in some places) or that of the Silvereye.

These Finches have the peculiar habit of flicking the tail and wings like a robin or *Cisticola*. This is a habit that I have not observed with any of the native finches with which I am familiar.

The Nutmeg Finch seems to be well established in the Brisbane area, where escapees from aviaries and freed birds became established, and the presence of the birds in my district, which is 80 miles from Brisbane, suggests an inland movement of the species.

Since the abnormal rains of June, 1950, the birds have been missing from their usual habitat about the railway and cultivated paddocks, but I am hoping that their absence is only temporary and that a spell of fine weather will induce them to return to their old feeding grounds.—
 E. A. R. LORD, Murphy's Creek, Q'ld., 11/7/50.