

Further Notes on Birds collected near Pine
Creek, Northern Territory.

[By EDWIN ASHBY, M.B.O.U., "Wittunga," Blackwood.]

I have received a second parcel of birds collected by Mr. C. E. May.

Cracticus nigrogularis picatus, Gld.—Pied butcher bird.—Two specimens were received of this species, and although very little difference is evident between the two sexes the beak of the male is a little longer and the build of the bird is more robust. The black in the female is not as deep a black as in the other sex, and the mantle is grey instead of white. This subspecies is smaller than the South Queensland bird.

Seisura inquieta nana, Gld.—Little restless flycatcher.—One specimen only, the beak is much shorter than that of the southern form, being 125 m.m. against the latter's 175 m.m. The northern bird is shorter in length and more slender, and the sheen on the crown is greenish instead of purple, with a strong

greenish metallic sheen on the mantle, whereas the mantle of the southern form is dead black or greyish black.

Micro-philemon orientalis sordidus, Gld.—Little friar bird.—The first batch of skins from Pine Creek contained two specimens of this species, one in the immature plumage showing the golden yellow collar and yellow throat. The other shows none of these features. In the second batch of skins was a single specimen collected months later which is a larger bird. On comparison with specimens from North-western Australia I find it identical with that sub-species *Micro-philemon orientalis occidentalis*, Ram. (Western yellow-throated friar bird). Apparently the two sub-species overlap at certain seasons of the year at Pine Creek, or it may be that they are inseparable, and Ramsay's sub-species may have to be dropped.

Meliphaga sonora cooperi, Mat.—Northern singing honey-eater.—The four specimens received are identical with the specimens in the Adelaide Museum received from Melville Island. The bird is smaller and more slender and the bill narrower than the allied sub-species from S.A. or W.A., also the colouration of the crown and back is paler—a grey-brown rather than a brown.

Cissomela pectoralis, Gld.—Banded honey-eater.—I received in all eight specimens of this interesting little honey-eater. The series is a very interesting one. While in the adult specimens there is not the slightest indication of yellow ear coverts some of the immature ones have them bright yellow. In some the whole of the back and part of the head and wings is cinnamon coloured, others have the mantle only of that colour sprinkled with well defined black dashes. Again others have only a few cinnamon blotches in the normal black ground colour of the back, another has none of these cinnamon markings—the crown of the head, nape, back wings, and tail being uniformly black except a narrow edge of white margins on the tips of the wing feathers, the underside pure white with black pectoral band. The black pectoral band is present in all the specimens.

Stigmatops indistincta media, Mat.—Wyndham least honey-eater.—I received one specimen of this species from Pine Creek. It differs from specimens received from the coast (*Stigmatops indistincta melvillensis*, Mat.) in being much paler both on the upper and under sides, the breast, instead of being of the dark-brown of the coastal species, is as pale as the abdomen.