

DONACICOLA SPECTABILIS, *Slater.*

Orange-rumped Finch.

Donacicola spectabilis, Slater, P. Z. S. 1879, p. 449, pl. xxxvii. fig. 2.—Salvad. Orn. della Papuasias &c. ii. p. 441 (1881).

THE genus *Donacicola* (as it is now written, instead of my original name *Donacola*, which, I admit, was not classically compounded) contains a very few species of little Finches, all of which are peculiar to the Australian region. The best-known of them is the Chestnut-breasted Finch (*D. castaneothorax*) of Australia; and a very closely allied species is found in South-eastern New Guinea, the *D. nigriceps* of Ramsay. The discovery of a new species in New Britain is of some interest, as showing the Papuan element in Australian ornithology, or, if one prefers it, the Australian element in the Papuan avifauna. It is to be regretted that the Finches are at present in such a neglected state as regards their classification, that the value of the different genera has never been worked out by a competent ornithologist; and therefore it is only fair to state that Dr. Slater, in his original description of this species, has compared it with my *Donacicola flavoprymna* as its nearest ally, and Mr. G. R. Gray classes the latter species as a *Munia*. I must confess that the present bird is very like a *Munia* in appearance and less like a *Donacicola* than the more typical species of the latter genus.

The single specimen at present known was procured in New Britain by the Rev. G. Brown, to whom we are indebted for the discovery recently of so many fine novelties; and I translate the description given by Dr. Slater (*l. c.*).

General colour brown; the head, nape, and sides of breast black; upper tail-coverts and margins of the central tail-feathers pale chestnut; under surface of body white; throat, lower part of the belly, and vent, with the thighs, black; under wing-coverts ochraceous white; bill and feet black. Total length 3·4 inches, wing 1·8, tail 1·2.

I am indebted to Dr. Slater for the loan of the unique specimen of the present bird, which has since passed into the collection of the British Museum.