

Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*) — one record

White-capped Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*) — roosted on island during non-breeding season (26/5/81 and 8/8/81). In poor light, I estimated that 5000 birds roosted on the island. Probably from Vatu-i-Ra.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) — one record

White-collared Kingfisher (*Halcyon chloris*) — one record

Fiji Shrikebill (*Clytorhynchus vitiensis*) — one record

Vanikoro Broadbill (*Myiagra vanikorensis*) — several records, all males

Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) — several records

Orange-breasted Honeyeater (*Myzomela jugularis*) — several records

Grey-backed White-eye (*Zosterops lateralis*) — several records

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SHORT NOTE

NEST OF THE GIANT FOREST HONEYEATER

Neither the breeding nor the nest of the endemic Giant Forest Honeyeater (*Gymnomyza viridis*) of Fiji, nor that of the related Mao (*G. samoensis*), endemic to Samoa, have been described (Watling 1982). In Fiji, *G. viridis* is frequently heard where sufficient areas of mature rainforest remain. The call is a loud ringing sound, often in duet (Diamond 1972) with another bird and often answered by duets given by other birds in the forest which can be heard for at least a kilometre. Despite its conspicuous call, the bird itself is relatively timid, preferring the dense foliage of the rainforest canopy, where it drinks nectar and forages for insects.

On 29 August 1982, while walking along a bulldozed track through the catchment forest of Wailoku near Suva, I noticed two *G. viridis* near the top of a tall tree, one of which was displaying by fanning and raising and lowering its tail. A few minutes later, I saw one bird carrying a dead leaf of a small palm in its bill. The next day, at about 1500 h, I again saw a bird in the vicinity and could discern a nest among the foliage of a tree, *Heritiera ornithocephala*, distinguished by the copper colour of the undersurface of the leaves. The nest was estimated to be about 18-20 m above ground with a diameter of about 20-25 cm. It was like a basket formed of rootlets

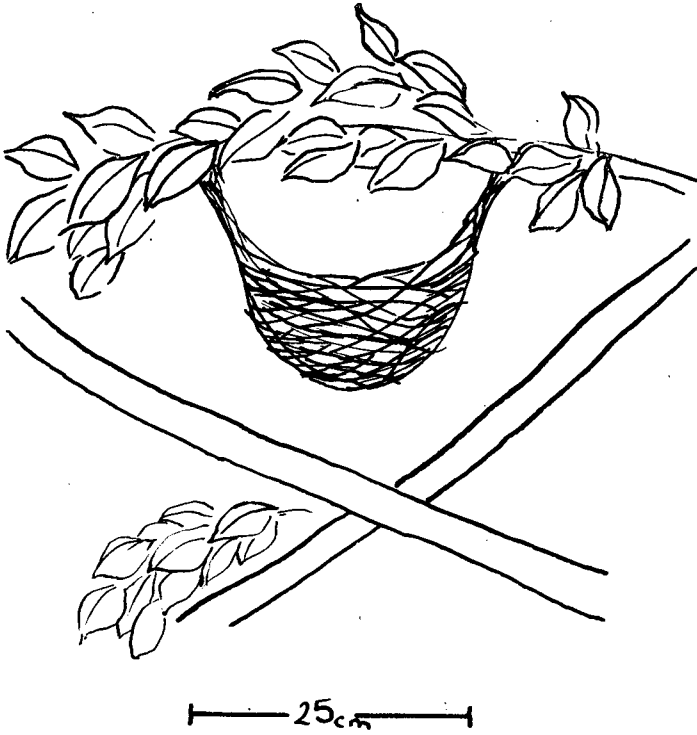


FIGURE 1

(Fig. 1), probably gathered from epiphytes. At this point, as if to confirm my supposition, the bird sat in the nest for about a minute, then left by hopping down the branch before flying down into the forest and disappearing silently. It came back directly at 1509 h and left again. It returned again at 1514 h to add a piece of rootlet to its nest before departing.

On subsequent visits up till the end of October, I saw no further activity near the nest, although I often heard birds calling nearby. I suspect that the nest was an old one and that I had witnessed a brief resurgence of sexual activity. I had earlier seen a juvenile, recognised by its dark streaked and spotted grey underparts about 100 m further along the same track on 9 August.

LITERATURE CITED

- DIAMOND, J. 1972. Further examples of dual singing by southwest Pacific birds. *Auk* 89: 180-183.
 WATLING, D. 1982. *Birds of Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa*. Wellington: Millwood Press.

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