SUMMARY

A new race of Cisticola juncidis (Raf.)—C. j. leunyeri—is named from the Northern Territory (Leanyer Swamp, near Darwin), and its nest and eggs described. Some aspects of its ecology and behaviour are discussed, and a comparison made with C. exilis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We have pleasure in acknowledging our gratitude to the following: Mr. N. J. Favaloro, for his description of the eggs; Dr. Ernst Mayr, for his expert help in unravelling the subspecific identity of our skins; Colonel A. L. Rose, for issuing collecting permits to Tom Givens; and Dr. A. B. Walkom, for the loan of Australian Museum photos.

The cost of the coloured plate, executed by Mr. Eric McDonald, was defrayed by the relatives of Tom Givens, to whom acknowledgement and thanks are given.

LITERATURE CITED


Musk Duck ‘Astray’.—On a dull, cold morning several of us were going out towards the highway in a car when we noticed some unusual movement in the distance. On going to investigate, we found a female Musk Duck waddling towards the highway—that is, directly away from the creek. Although the car was driven within a few yards of it, the bird made no attempt to fly, though it used its wings, penguin fashion, as accelerators, and looked most ludicrous as it moved its body in ‘every direction at once’ as one of the party described it.

None of us had ever before seen a Musk Duck away from water. In the direction in which it was travelling, the nearest channel would be at least half a mile on.

Is it possible that these birds require darkness to provide the impulse for flight?—C. R. S. Reid, Gunbower, Vic., 5/2/53.