

tall grass stems. The only males collected were immatures (probably birds-of-the-year) resembling females in plumage; it is probable that in both *C. juncidis* and *C. exilis* the males, after construction of the initial nest framework presumably to attract females to territories, seldom approach the nests.

Nests were abandoned readily, the principal cause of disturbance being domestic stock.

#### REFERENCES

Givens, T. V., and Hitchcock, W. B. 1953. *Cisticola juncidis* (Raf.) in the Northern Territory. *Emu* 53: 193-200.

Mathews, G. M. 1914. Additions and corrections to my list of the Birds of Australia. *Austr. Av. Rec.* 11: 83-107.

Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Townsville and Milarook respectively.  
Manuscript received: April 9, 1966.

**Flocking of Spinifex Pigeon.**—On Wednesday, May 31, 1967, in Jasper Gorge, near Victoria River Downs Station in the Northern Territory, very large numbers of Spinifex Pigeons, *Lophophaps plumifera*, were seen at noon coming down to Jasper Creek to drink. The birds walked in a dense flock down the slopes of the Gorge, flying only when disturbed or when the terrain was too steep for walking, and then only to land as soon as possible and to continue to walk down to the creek. A very conservative estimate of their numbers was 400; there may have been considerably more, as some birds turned back when observers walked along the road, parallelling the creek, which the birds were crossing. Other personal experience of the Spinifex Pigeon has been of small flocks, of numbers varying from four or five to 20.—JACK HYETT, Whitehorse Road, Croydon, Victoria.

**Fork-tailed Swifts in large numbers.**—In the *South Australian Ornithological Association Newsletter* of June 1967 (pp. 15, 16) Fork-tailed Swifts were reported in numbers on February 5, 1967, near Adelaide and on March 14 and 15 at Warrambo and Talia Caves, Eyre Peninsula. Enquiry from the Regional Office at Adelaide of the Bureau of Meteorology shows that there was no unusual atmospheric disturbance on either of these occasions, though the days were hot. These occurrences are against the view I expressed in *The Emu*, 65: 144-148, that "Swifts are seen in South Australia usually only on the wings of a storm".—JOHN B. CLELAND.