LITERATURE CITED

BELCHER, W. J. Collection of bird paintings, Fiji Museum collections.
BLACKBURN, A. 1971. Some notes on Fijian Birds. Notornis 18 (3): 147-174, figs 1-5.
CLUNIE, F. 1973. Nest Helpers at a White-breasted Woodswallow Nest. Notornis 20 (4): 378-380.
HARRISON, C. J. O. 1969. Helpers at the Nest in Australian Passerine Birds. Emu 69 (1): 30-40.
IMMELMANN, K. 1960. Behavioural Observations on Several Species of Western Australian Birds. Emu 60: 237-244.
IMMELMANN, K. 1966. Beobachtungen on Schwalbenstaren. Journal fur Ornithologie 107 (1): 37-69.
LAYARD, E. L. 1875. Ornithological Notes from Fiji with descriptions of supposed new species of Birds. Ibis 1875: 27-30.
WOOD, C. A. 1926. Field observations in WOOD, C. D. & WETMORE, A. A. collection of birds from the Fiji Islands. Part III. Ibis (12) 2 (1): 91-136, text-fig 4.

Fergus Clunie,
Fiji Museum,
P.O. Box 2023,
Suva,
Fiji

★

SHORT NOTE

DUCKS' TAKE-OFF

In the northern hemisphere, ducks take off from their water in a north-westerly direction, no matter in which direction their final destination lies; in the southern hemisphere, they take off to the north-east.

Is it more than a coincidence that this matches the Coriolis force ?

Perhaps it is. For the Coriolis force acts *to the right* of all moving objects in the northern hemisphere, *to the left* in the southern. So that in each case the ducks would, as it were, lean against the Coriolis force until they had found their orientation against the frame of reference of the fixed stars.

R. FRASER

Woburn Masonic Village,
Wai-iti Crescent,
Lower Hutt

[Comments are invited — Ed.]