

it. As the record shows the song opened with two single "toolet" notes. Then the "teeo" part joined in with the "toolit." The phrases began on the same pitch, but the "toolit" slurred upward and the "teeo" down. The "toolit" contained a liquid consonant sound, but the "teeo" did not. Perhaps most wonderful of all the "toolit" phrase remained on the beginning note a shorter time than the "teeo." Neither song was louder than the other and there was no suspicion that one could be an overtone of the other.

It must be physically impossible for a single vibrating organ to produce two distinct sounds at once unless one is an overtone of the other. I would therefore infer that the Cardinal has two or more vibrating organs in its throat and is capable of using each independently of the other. Whether this is a common phenomenon of the Cardinal song or this individual was an unusual bird I do not know, having little acquaintance with the song of the Cardinal as a species. Perhaps someone who lives in the range of this bird and has a more intimate acquaintance with its song could settle this question.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*

**Dickcissel in Central Park, New York City.**—The noon hour of October 4, 1922, found me on the top of a steep rock, looking down into a certain grape vine tangle on the edge of the Lake in the Ramble. Fourteen years ago I flushed a Horned Owl out of this very tangle, and ever since have religiously peeked into it in the fatuous hope that lightning would strike a second time in the same spot, and that another rare bird would be discovered. On the day in question a flock of English Sparrows seemed an inadequate return for my efforts, but one started working its way upward, and finally emerged on top to view the scenery. It was pure chance which caused me to put my glasses on it, revealing a yellow breast dark loral streaks, and a bay patch on the bend of the wing. I was so astounded at beholding an adult female Dickcissel in winter plumage, that I almost fell off the rock into the lake. A few minutes' study of a bird with which I was previously thoroughly familiar in life, and I rushed back to the Museum to secure witnesses of so improbable an occurrence, as the locality made collecting out of the question. Most fortunately my ever obliging friend, Mr. J. T. Nichols, who also knew the bird well in life, consented to return with me. A half hour's search, and we found it with a flock of English Sparrows in a patch of rag-weed. It seemed to have absorbed the tameness of the Sparrows, as we were able to observe it at leisure on the ground in bright sunlight at a distance of fifteen feet. Perhaps few students of the Atlantic Coast realize the astonishing resemblance of this bird in fall plumage to the female English Sparrow. With a front view, of course, the yellow breast and loral streaks are very noticeable, but the bay at the bend of the wing is only visible at very close range. I do not believe the two species could be separated on a back view in life. The harsh "cack" of the Dickcissel is, of course, very different from the "cheep" or chatter of the Sparrow. Our bird was in sleek, unfrayed plum-

age, was able to fly perfectly, and showed no signs of being an escaped cage-bird, a contingency indeed as remote as its occurrence on the Atlantic Coast. It is a very interesting coincidence that Mr. Henry E. Childs ('Auk,' April, 1923, p. 330) records a Dickcissel in Rhode Island last December, also associating with English Sparrows. In this region occasional specimens were recorded between 1875 and 1890. Fourteen years later Mr. Waldron De Witt Miller made the astonishing record of a breeding pair near Plainfield, New Jersey, which ended the local history of this species.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History*, N. Y.

**Habits of the Northern Shrike in Captivity.**—Bird banding is proving to be a medium through which the bird bander is securing facts and enjoying intimacies with birds that might otherwise not be obtained.

The following experience of Miss Lottie M. Smith of South Sudbury, Mass. is illustrative of the delightful, unexpected experiences that go with the work.

Like others who operate a banding station throughout the entire year, she has had one or two visits from Northern Shrikes (*Lanius borealis*) that were attracted to the trap by the Juncos, Tree Sparrows, Purple Finches, Chickadees and other winter birds who enjoy her food and protection. On two occasions, due to a scarcity of food in the severe winter just past, Shrikes entered the trap in pursuit of birds, and were removed and despatched. Upon the third occasion the Shrike, finding itself trapped, bent all its energies to escape and, contrary to the actions of the other two, did not molest the banded Tree Sparrows which it entered the trap to seize.

This Shrike was removed, placed in a cage three feet in height and set in a large unused room with a southern exposure beside the window. Unless the day was unusually cold or stormy, the window remained open and this was the home of the bird from March 1, to April 7, 1923.

The first food offered the captive was flies and meal worms but these it spurned and would not touch. Two dead Juncos were readily devoured with most of the feathers but when a dead Shrike was offered the head was snapped off and the body remained untouched. It was observed that when the bird was hungry it consumed more of the feathers and undigestible parts of its victims than when its hunger was not so keen. Raw beef, of course was quite acceptable and this at first was chopped into small bits but later was fed in bulk. Before partaking, the Shrike pulled off the fat and deposited it in a saucer that contained its drinking water. This trick appeared intentional for while it ejected pellets about the floor of its cage the fat was always deposited in the saucer. Pork and lamb were as unacceptable as beef was acceptable and the Shrike preferred the latter uncooked but if sufficiently hungry would eat the cooked meat. This and all other food was impaled on its cage and torn bit by bit. Mice were its favorite food and the heads were devoured first—the remainder was left hanging from the cage, sometimes all day, before it was touched