

in the heart of the towns exhibiting all the familiarity and assertiveness of a House Sparrow. *Major* seems to be of a more retiring disposition and in eastern Florida not so much in evidence in the vicinity of human habitations. However, I do not wish to emphasize these distinctions as they may be more apparent than real.

But the differences of the color of the iris and the shape of the tail are so outstanding that I should consider them sufficient to entitle the birds to be regarded as full species.

Many other observers must have noticed these differences but I cannot find any published record of them. Ridgway in 'Bulletin 50' gives the iris as brown in *major* and records no difference in any of the four subspecies afterwards described. The tail he gives as plicate in form for the whole genus.

Mr. R. D. Camp tells me that where the ranges of the two birds overlap in the region of Aransas Pass they each retain their own characteristics.

Will someone, with a wider knowledge of both birds in life than I possess, come forward with further evidence on this interesting question?—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, B. C.*

**Baltimore Oriole Feeding on Larvae of Needle Miner.**—On May 13, 1928, I found a pair of Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) feeding on the larvae of a needle miner, probably *Paralechia pinifoliella*, in a pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). The tree could be observed closely from my study window and the Orioles were seen feeding there each day until the twenty-second of the month. Both birds worked alike; resting on one foot, the bird would pull down a needle with the other foot, tuck it under the supporting foot with the bill, remove the larva and continue to feed in this manner until the five or six needles within reach were opened and held under the foot, then a new position would be taken. The larvae were to be found about half way down the needle, invisible from the outside. The operation of removing the larva from a needle was done with such skill that in no case did I find a needle broken or permanently bent. The female was silent, but the male kept up his characteristic whistling, mostly on one note. The tree was covered with brown tipped needles from the ravages of the miners the previous year. These needles the Orioles were not observed to touch.—GORDON BOIT WELLMAN, *Wellesley, Mass.*

**Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in Delaware Co., Pennsylvania.**—On May 26, 1928, Miss Mary Wood Daley, of Darling, Delaware Co., Pa., while on a bird walk was attracted by a strange loud note *dick-cis-cis* with strong accent on the first syllable and upon locating the singer found it to be a male Dickcissel in full breeding plumage. It was not at all shy and was very conspicuous. It did not stray far from a hedge by the roadside, flying from one side to the other and singing constantly, its favorite perches being a wild cherry bush and some dead brush nearby.