

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.

On June 9, she had the same experience but on neither day could any trace of a female or nest be found.

On June 18, Mr. Wharton Huber and I, following Miss Daley's directions drove to the locality and parking our car by the roadside found the bird singing from the wild cherry bush just in front of us. It flew across a field of clover and alfalfa once or twice and returned to the hedgerow. Presently we saw the female also, carrying food in her bill. For half an hour we searched the hedge row and the field but could find neither nest nor young, though doubtless the young birds were somewhere in the dense growth of underbrush. The old ones were not particularly disturbed by our presence and the male continued to sing at intervals.

On July 4, Miss Daley again visited the spot but no trace of the birds could be found.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

The Dickcissel in North Carolina.—The first specimens of this species ever recorded from North Carolina were observed in a wheat field near Raleigh on May 19, 1928, by L. H. Snyder, C. S. Brimley and L. A. Whitford. A single pair only was observed and unfortunately neither was secured, but the birds were seen and heard at such short range as to leave no doubt as to the identification.—L. H. SNYDER AND C. S. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

The Dickcissel in Maryland.—The disappearance of the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) east of the Alleghanies within the lifetime of ornithologists still living has been a matter of such speculation as to render the following observations on the occurrence of this species during the past summer near Dickerson, Maryland, of especial interest.

On July 15, 1928, in passing through this section by auto, our ears, trained to the song of the Dickcissel in field work in the Middle West, caught a familiar note, at first received incredulously, but a moment later most surprisingly verified by the steady repetition that characterizes the song of the male Dickcissel on his breeding grounds. At least six males were scattered through rank fields of timothy and red clover, grown heavily with daisies and other weeds, and we remained for an hour listening to their notes and watching them as they sang from weed top, hedge or telephone wire. One finely marked bird was under observation for some time within fifty yards. The group was patently on their breeding grounds, and a week later, on July 22, we returned to find three males still in full song. As we watched for them we observed a female fly into a growth of weeds with her bill filled with food, to be followed later by a male who perched above the point indicated. On going over, instead of finding the expected nest, we flushed a young bird, barely grown, that flew across into an adjacent field. This definitely established the breeding record, as the bird was only recently on the wing.

On July 29, our last record, three males were singing as vigorously as when the colony was first discovered.