

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.

It may be stated as certain that the Dickcissel did not nest at this point in 1926 or 1927, as we have had the area concerned under such observation that so conspicuous a species would have been certain of detection. After some discussion we did not collect specimens as they were not required for definite identification, and we did not care to disturb the possibility of establishment of a permanent colony of a highly interesting bird.

In the sixties of the previous century, Coues and Prentiss¹ wrote of the "Black-throated Bunting," as they termed the Dickcissel, "abundant, especially in the spring" in the District of Columbia. Within fifteen years the birds became rare, and finally disappeared. The latest records known to us for this vicinity are those of Kirkwood² who reports a specimen taken by Mr. Resler at Back River, Maryland, October 2, 1880; of H. W. Henshaw, who saw one near the Soldier's Home in Washington, May 31, 1887; of J. D. Figgins, who collected three, two of which are now in the National Museum, at Jefferson, Maryland, August 4 and 5, 1890; of C. W. Richmond, who recorded one near Brookland, a suburb of Washington, in May or June, 1894, and of Col. Wirt Robinson (then Lieut. Robinson), who recorded one near Fort Myer, Va., in June or July, 1894.—ALEXANDER WETMORE AND FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Washington, D. C.*

Dickcissel in New Jersey.—On June 11, 1928, I received a letter from Mrs. Hermione Baker Warner of Sharptown, N. J., informing me that her husband, Leland I. Warner, had observed a Dickcissel apparently at home in his alfalfa field on June 10 and 11, 1928, and as I had stated that the species was now rare in southern New Jersey, she thought it worthy of record. This would appear to be another indication of a return of the Dickcissel to its former habitat on the Atlantic coast during the past spring.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Spizella taverneri on Migration in Montana.—I spent the month of September, 1927 at the Montana Ranch Club near Cameron in Madison County, about seventy-five miles south of Bozeman. The ranch was situated on the upper benches of the Madison River valley about nine miles from the river and a half hour's ride below the nearest tongue of Canadian Zone forest at the base of the mountains. Just below the ranch house was a dried-up irrigation ditch which supported a dense growth of rose bushes and willows. On September 4, I flushed some small Sparrows from this place, which were obviously *Spizella*, but I was unable to identify the species positively even with protracted study through high-powered field glasses. They were not Clay-colored Sparrows, which occur only in eastern Montana, nor was I satisfied to call them Brewer's Sparrows, a species with which I was familiar in life, and which also was not supposed to occur in this section of Montana, above the sage-brush belt. In the meantime I was having great difficulties with the State Game Warden in securing

¹ Ann. Rep. Smiths. Inst. for 1861 (publ. 1862) p. 413.

² Trans. Maryland Acad. Sci., 1895, pp. 340-341.