

we feel very sure that the singing bird often rose to a height of at least 800 feet. We endeavored to check this as carefully as possible by measuring horizontal distances at which the bird was watched and comparing these with vertical distances.

At the end of a song period the bird would drop almost vertically to the ground, or, more often, it would swoop down only to pursue some passing Vesper Sparrow or Prairie Horned Lark. Frequently these pursuits were long and determined.

As Elliott Coues stated (*Birds of the Northwest*, 1874, pp. 43) the species is very difficult to locate or approach when it is on the ground. When approached it flushes at a considerable distance and darts off with a rapid, undulating flight.

It has been asserted several times that Sprague's Pipit sings only on the wing. For example, Aretas A. Saunders (Auk, 39, 1922, p. 175) says, "I have never known Sprague's Pipit to sing in any other manner than on the wing." On several occasions, however, we heard this Pipit sing from the ground and once we watched it sing from the top of a small telephone pole. These songs, while identical in pattern with the flight songs, were much less loud and clear.

Although this Pipit had clearly established a breeding territory and was vigorously defending it, we found no evidence of a mate. The occurrence of a stray male defending its territory does not necessarily constitute a breeding record, even though it would be easy and natural to assume so. We have noted a number of similar cases. For instance, on June 14, 1934, we observed a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) established and singing at the Edwin S. George Reserve near Pinckney, Michigan, at least a hundred miles south of its nearest known breeding area. This Sparrow persisted in singing for about two weeks when it apparently became discouraged and left. In spite of much effort spent in searching, we could find neither female nor nest. Doubtless this bird too, was unable to find a mate.

This capture of Sprague's Pipit constitutes the first record of the occurrence of the species in Michigan.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN AND JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoölogy, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

**Philadelphia Vireo on Long Island, N. Y.**—On May 25, 1935, I observed a Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) at Bayside, Long Island, N. Y., I realized the excessive rarity of the bird on Long Island and was particularly careful in my identification. The bird was working its way through the tops of a group of American chestnut saplings, much as does the Red-eyed Vireo.—HERMAN BOHN, 3329 171st St., Flushing, N. Y.

**Swainson's Warbler in the North Carolina Mountains.**—On May 8, 1934, while observing the spring migration of Warblers just outside Tryon, N. C., I was surprised to find a Swainson's Warbler in open woods on a ridge about 100 yards from the nearest water, a small spring. The next day I saw it again in the same woods, but, as I had been taught to believe that "water, tangled thickets, patches of cain and rank growth of semi-aquatic plants" were indispensable to its existence, I hesitated recording this sight record.

However, on my trip to Tryon this spring I found a pair of these birds in the same woods only a few hundred yards from where I had seen one last year. One bird was noticeably larger and attentive to the smaller, but I do not think they were nesting. One bird sang infrequently this year from the ground and in the bushes, and my notes show that these birds were seen by me every day for six days, May 9 to 14. I studied them for hours and was able to get within thirty feet and watch them through 8x glasses as they hunted among the leaves. Parts of the hill have thick growths of mountain laurel, but these warblers did not confine themselves to the thickets but were often in the open woods and were easily observed.

I have hunted successfully for Swainson's Warblers near Charleston, S. C. with my friend the late Arthur T. Wayne, but did not expect to find them in the mountains in such an entirely different environment. After writing Mr. H. H. Brimley, Director, State Museum, Raleigh, N. C., I believe that this is the first record of Swainson's Warblers for western North Carolina.

I was also surprised to find in looking through the Index to 'The Auk' only two references to Swainson's Warbler during the past ten years.—ELLISON A. WILLIAMS, 27 Limehouse St., Charleston, S. C.

**Breeding of Swainson's Warbler in Robeson County, North Carolina.**—According to Pearson and the Brimleys 'Birds of North Carolina,' (pp. 275, 276) Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsoni*) has been reported in North Carolina only from the semi-coastal counties of Craven and Chowan, the only nest found being in the latter county. On May 2, 1935, I found a nest of this species in Little Raft Swamp, at the edge of the town of Red Springs, Robeson County, N. C. Red Springs is 90 miles inland and 35 miles southeast of Pinehurst. The nest was located two feet from the ground in the top of a mass of honeysuckle vines growing over a small bush, and was the usual bulky mass of leaves, lined with fine rootlets. It was in a rather dry section of the swamp, 200 yards from the stream. There is very little cane growth in this swamp. When found the nest was apparently completed but empty. The first egg was laid on May 6, and the second on May 7, after which I had to leave the region. The eggs were creamy white, with no markings. I had seen both birds, but not being able to actually see one on the nest during the day I visited it at night with a flashlight and studied the bird on the nest at arm's length at my leisure. Not having a state permit I did not collect the bird or eggs. Another empty nest was found on May 2, a mile or more away in the same swamp and near the stream, and a bird observed in the vicinity; and a fourth bird was seen at still another place. I did not hear any of the birds sing, but heard the call note, more throaty and full-bodied than that of most Warblers.—J. J. MURRAY, Lexington, Virginia.

**The Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in the Northern Neck of Virginia.**—While in a field between King George and Shiloh, King George County, Virginia, on July 4, 1935, we were somewhat surprised to see a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) which flew up from the ground at a distance of six or eight feet.—AUSTIN H. AND LEILA F. CLARK, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

**Dickcissel in South Carolina.**—Mr. W. B. Gadsden, on January 20, 1935, described to me a strange bird which he had noticed in his yard at Summerville, S. C. From the description it seemed likely that the bird was a Dickcissel. To positively identify it, Mr. E. B. Chamberlain of the Charleston Museum, and Mr. Dungar Robb and I made two trips to Summerville and were rewarded on the second with an excellent opportunity of observing it at arm's length on Mr. Gadsden's window feeding station. It proved a male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in rather dull plumage. From information furnished Mr. Chamberlain by the United States Biological Survey, this is the first winter record for the United States.

The bird remained until April 10, when it was last observed by Mr. Gadsden. It was usually to be found in company with a flock of English Sparrows. It sang incessantly, despite temperatures which at times dropped to 18° F. Its plumage, which had at first been so dull as to cause difficulty in picking it out from the Sparrows at a distance, brightened considerably in the weeks it stayed in Summerville.—W. W. HUMPHREYS, 15 Limehouse St., Charleston, S. C.