

**The Dickcissel on the Atlantic Coast of Canada.**—In the past three autumns, more records of the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) on the Atlantic coast of Canada have come to my attention than all the records for other years combined. Unusual numbers on the north Atlantic coast of the United States have been recorded by Griscom (Audubon Field Notes, 6[1]: 5, 1952) and others. The Canadian records, however, substantially expand the known extent of this remarkable autumn wandering and indicate that considerable numbers were involved.

On October 5, 1950, J. Mitchell Campbell observed three Dickcissels in a clearing on the lower Moisie River, Quebec, 17 river miles [eight air miles] north of its mouth on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. These three were seen until October 7, but only two were seen on October 8 and 9. On the latter day, Campbell left the area. An excellent photograph of one of these birds is in the National Museum of Canada. Again, on September 25, 1951, a Dickcissel appeared in the same clearing, and it was promptly collected by Campbell. It is a first-year male now in the National Museum of Canada. These occurrences were recorded by Campbell (Can. Field-Nat., 65[6]: 210, 1951). On October 6, 1952, Campbell observed another Dickcissel in the same clearing in which the 1950 and 1951 observations were made! At that time Campbell was leaving the locality temporarily, and when he returned six days later, he found the bird there dead. Although he airmailed this specimen to the National Museum of Canada, it could not be preserved. However, the incomplete ossification of the skull showed it to be a bird of the year. It is remarkable that in each of the past three years Dickcissels should appear in this remote clearing.

Some 150 miles farther east on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence at Baie Johan Beetz (Piashti Bay), Quebec, another Dickcissel was collected on September 25, 1951, by Alan G. Loughrey of the Canadian Wildlife Service. The specimen is in the National Museum of Canada. Mr. Loughrey was not there in 1950 or 1952.

In central eastern Newfoundland, at Terra Nova, Tuck (Can. Field-Nat., 66[2]: 68, 1952) closely observed a Dickcissel, apparently an adult male, on November 3, 1951. About an hour later he found another dead on the railroad near by. The wings of the latter are now in the National Museum of Canada. The Moisie River and Baie Johan Beetz birds are the northernmost known occurrences of this species and the Terra Nova ones are the northeasternmost.

Campbell, Loughrey, and Tuck may well have been the only observers in 1951 on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in Newfoundland who would recognize this obscure (in autumn) bird. They all chanced upon Dickcissels that year in the small and widely-separated areas that came under their scrutiny. How many others went unobserved in the vast intervening areas cannot be estimated. Mortality among these northern nomads appeared to be high.

The writer is indebted to Robie W. Tufts for the following heretofore unpublished sight records from Nova Scotia. On November 30, 1952, two Dickcissels appeared at a feeding station in Halifax. One, thought to be a male, disappeared next day. The other became quite tame and was seen until December 7, often with English Sparrows. They were identified by C. K. Allen and Lloyd Duncanson. On December 4, 1952, one was seen feeding with English Sparrows at Liverpool, N. S., by Miss Verna S. Dunlop. She reported this to Mr. Tufts who commented (*in litt.*) that she "gave such a perfect description of the Dickcissel that I had no hesitancy in accepting it at face value."

There are recent sight records also from southwestern New Brunswick. At Machias Seal Island, one was seen on August 20 and 21, 1951, by Glen Woolfenden

and recorded by Squires in 'The Birds of New Brunswick' (The New Brunswick Museum, Monographic Ser. 4, p. 134, 1952). Two, perhaps the same, were observed there on August 31, 1951, by Arnett and Corson (Records of New England Birds, 7[8]: 161, 1951). At St. Andrews, N. B., Miss H. W. Mac Coubrey reported one, apparently a male, on September 21, 1952, according to Squires (Nature News, 3[5]: 2, 1952).

Rand (Auk, 46 [2]: 247, 1929) summarized the Atlantic coastal records from northeastern United States and eastern Canada through 1928. To his summary, the following Canadian records may be added. Dwight (Auk, 20 [4]: 440, 1903) recorded a young male collected on September 13, 1902, on Sable Island, Nova Scotia. Smith (Auk, 55 [3]: 549-550, 1938) reported a specimen killed by a car at North Sydney, N. S., on December 3, 1929. Ball (Can. Field-Nat., 57[1]: 4, 1943) carefully identified one, apparently an immature male, near Cape Gaspé, Quebec, on October 18, 1940.—W. EARL GODFREY, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.*

**Survival Records of Young Feral Pigeons.**—The object of this note is to present some recent data on the survival of the feral domestic pigeon (*Columba livia*) from egg to fledgling, utilizing the terms recommended by Davis (Auk, 69: 316-320, 1952).

Although we are well aware of the fact that the pigeon's clutch usually consists of but two eggs, we need to know the rate of recruitment of young pigeons into a flock. Recently it has been shown (Davis and Schein, Anat. Rec., 113: 549, 1952) that pigeon reproduction is not restricted to one short season; indeed, newly laid eggs were found in every month of the year. Therefore, the potential recruitment of young is very high.

In order to gain some idea of the actual magnitude of this recruitment, it was necessary to observe a series of nests from egg-laying to fledging of young and to determine the probabilities of hatching and fledging of the eggs. This was accomplished on two widely separated flocks of pigeons: one in the heart of the city of Baltimore, Maryland, and the other in the vicinity of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, approximately two miles away from the downtown flock.

The downtown flock of about 75 birds centered their activities about a church steeple which was used for both nesting and roosting. The steeple was a tall, tapering brick spire, with a base and seven progressively smaller wooden platforms at 20- to 30-foot intervals within the spire. All but the first platform were well illuminated through the many windows and openings in the steeple, and all but the base, first, second, and fourth platforms were directly accessible to the birds from the outside. The pigeons roosted on the platforms and ladders within the steeple, and on the windows and ornamental carvings and ledges on the outside of the steeple. Nests were usually located on the platforms and occasionally in an opening within the wall.

The base of the steeple, approximately two stories above ground level, was illuminated by a large window in which the glass was completely intact, thus affording no access to the outside at this level. The floor was covered with two to three feet of litter, consisting of skeletons of both pigeons and starlings, egg shells, old nesting material, and accumulated pebbles and droppings. Only two nests were found on this level, and both were abandoned before the eggs could hatch. In fact, the only birds which I saw on this level were nestlings and young fledglings which had fallen down from an upper level and were unable to escape.