Nesting of the Dickcissel in Oklahoma.—The Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) is a common summer resident throughout most of central Oklahoma (Nice, *The Birds of Oklahoma*, p. 25, 1931). During the summers of 1960 and 1961 I located 94 Dickcissel nests near Stillwater. The distance from the ground to the tops of the nests varied from eight to 425 cm (three inches to 14 feet), with the mean distance being 126 cm. Gross (*Auk*, 38: 1–26, 163–184, 1921) working in Illinois and Stockard (*Auk*, 22: 146–158, 273–288, 1905) in Mississippi found the Dickcissel to be primarily a ground-nesting species. Only 25.5 per cent of the nests that I found were on the ground (Table 1). Dimensions for 70 of the nests are given in Table 2. Analysis of the materials used in nest construction showed that all of the nests contained Little

TABLE 1

CHOICE OF NESTING SITES OF THE DICKCISSEL

Host vegetation	*Number of nests*	*Per cent*
Ground nests		
Little Bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*)	20	21.2
Western Ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*)	2	2.1
Blue False Indigo (*Baptesia australis*)	1	1.1
Ironweed (*Vernonia baldwini*)	1	1.1
Total	24	25.5
Elevated nests		
American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)	34	36.2
Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*)	7	7.4
Hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*)	6	6.3
Evening Primrose (*Oenothera* spp.)	4	4.2
Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)	3	3.2
Chickasaw Plum (*Prunus angustifolia*)	2	2.1
Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)	2	2.1
Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*)	2	2.1
Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)	1	1.1
Juniper (*Juniperus* sp.)	1	1.1
Black Willow (*Salix nigra*)	1	1.1
Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.)	1	1.1
Heath Aster (*Aster ericoides*)	1	1.1
Fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*)	1	1.1
Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)	1	1.1
Giant Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*)	1	1.1
Thistle (*Cirsium* sp.)	1	1.1
Total	70	74.5
Grand total	94	100.0

TABLE 2

DIMENSIONS OF 70 DICKCISSEL NESTS

Measurement	*Mean*	*Range*
Inside diameter (mm)	57.4 × 63.5	49 × 53 – 70 × 72
Outside diameter (mm)	94.9 × 106.0	80 × 90 – 108 × 122
Inside depth (mm)	47.5	36 – 60
Outside depth (mm)	83.4	55 – 132

Bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*), 85 per cent contained Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), 69 per cent contained Bedstraw (*Galium aparine*), and 38 per cent contained Peppergrass (*Lepidium virginianum*). Various kinds of tree leaves were used as reinforcing materials in all of the nests. Paper, rootlets, and other grasses were also used occasionally. Thirty (49 per cent) of the 61 nests that contained eggs hatched at least one nestling, and 18 (30 per cent) fledged at least one young. This is considerably lower than the average nesting success of 49 per cent reported by Nice (*Auk,* 74: 305–321, 1957) for altricial birds in general. Of the 210 eggs that were laid, 80 (38 per cent) hatched, and 52 (25 per cent) produced fledglings. Nineteen (31 per cent) of the nests were parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), but none of the cowbird eggs hatched. [Contribution No. 340 of the Oklahoma State University Zoology Department.]—THOMAS G. OVERMIRE, *Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

Catbird Pair Accepts Cowbird Egg and Apparently Raises Young Cowbird.—The Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*, has been listed as a very uncommon victim and reported indefinitely to have raised a young Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater* (Friedmann, *The Cowbirds,* 1927). Observations by Berger (*Jack Pine Warbler,* 29: 115–117, 1951) and Nickell (*Wils. Bull.,* 70: 286–287, 1958) confirm a low percentage of parasitism and a rare acceptance of the egg and fledging of the young cowbird. We have but one instance of previous parasitism of this species in our own records covering a span of 30 years. In this instance the cowbird egg disappeared in a few days, perhaps ejected by the host.

During the 1960 nesting season only one pair of Catbirds occupied territory on our property, which in some seasons has supported two pairs. This nest was discovered at 08:15 on 5 June by David McGeen. It was one meter from the ground, well concealed and in darkness in a multiflora rose hedge. At this time it contained four Catbird eggs and one cowbird egg. By 08:00 the next morning the cowbird egg had hatched, the Catbird eggs being unchanged. The following morning, 7 June, the nest was found to be empty and the lining displaced to one side. A raccoon, *Procyon lotor*, was the suspected predator.

No attempt was made to locate a subsequent nest. However, on the morning of 8 July one of the adult Catbirds was feeding a recently fledged cowbird with a short, stubby tail. The Catbird also came to our suet feeder, and repeatedly fed the young cowbird bits of suet. In the next several days three young Catbirds were also noted being fed by the adults. No other adult birds demonstrated any interest whatsoever in the juvenile cowbird. On 11 July a group of three courting cowbirds, containing at least one male, was noted on the area! At 07:30 on 13 July we observed at close range the young cowbird perched on the porch roof outside our bedroom window. The Catbird fed it five times in as many minutes. While the Catbird was away foraging, an insect flew fairly close but out of reach in a zigzag flight. The cowbird followed the insect's movement, cocking its head to follow it up and away. By this time the tail was much longer, and its appearance as well as its flight ability denoted its added age out of the nest.

On 16 July a pair of Song Sparrows was noted feeding two stubby-tailed, freshly fledged cowbirds. The three were subsequently visitors to our seed feeding area, and one was banded on 30 July, although by this time their appearance was more similar and we were not certain whether it was the one apparently raised by the Catbird or one of the two apparently raised by the Song Sparrows.

Subsequent conversation with Nickell brings out the fact that a great degree of darkness existed at the nest in which acceptance of an egg and subsequent fledging of