

**The Dickcissel in eastern West Virginia.**—On June 2, 1945, Watson M. Perrygo of the United States National Museum found a male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) three miles south of Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, in extreme eastern West Virginia. The bird was singing from telephone wires near a clover field. The locality is in the main valley of the Potomac River, approximately 22 miles in an air line from the area near Dickerson, Maryland, where Frederick Lincoln and I found Dickcissels breeding in 1928. The bird was not collected but there is no question as to its identify as Mr. Perrygo is familiar with the species from extensive field work in its usual present-day range in the Mississippi Valley. The record adds another county to the occurrence of this bird as given by Maurice C. Brooks in his recently published 'Check-list of West Virginia Birds' (Agric. Exp. Stat. West Virginia Univ., Bull. 316: 18, 1944).—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

**A Red Phalarope in Tennessee.**—This member of the sandpiper family (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) is predominantly a coastal transient and a maritime species during the winter; therefore an inland occurrence is of especial interest. On December 17, 1944, while the annual Christmas census of the Great Smoky Mountains Park area was being taken, one party of observers discovered a dead bird of this species on the road near the rear of the Park Headquarters building. Mrs. Frank Leonhard of Knoxville first noticed the bird, gray and white of plumage but much soiled and somewhat damaged by passing autos. We found after washing and drying the specimen that it would be possible to preserve it in the form of a study skin. With the aid of Dr. Henry Meyer, the bird was measured with the following results, expressed in inches: wing, 5.00; tail, 2.15; bill, 0.84. Examination and dissection showed that the gizzard was empty except for three small pieces of grit, and that the determination of sex was impossible due to disintegration. The skin was presented to Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, and has been deposited with the other park records. Dr. John W. Aldrich of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., who kindly agreed to examine the specimen, verified our identification of the Red Phalarope.

The occurrence of a bird far from its normal range and habitat can sometimes be due to weather disturbances, and in this instance a logical explanation seems to be the Atlantic hurricane of October 13 to 21. A review of the weather data by Mr. Stupka confirms this suggestion. On the night of October 20–21, the strong winds and heavy rainfall were of sufficient intensity to break off numerous dead limbs, and on the mountain crest along the North Carolina-Tennessee divide there were some patches of sound timber (particularly fir) felled by the blow. The phalarope, brought in and perhaps injured by the storm, wandered about until it died or was killed by a passing auto. Since the road (a gravelled side-road) is infrequently travelled, it is quite possible that the bird could have been overlooked for this period of several weeks. Also, temperatures were low enough the greater part of this time to keep the body of the bird fairly well preserved.

A review of the more recent literature, along with inquiries among local ornithologists, indicates this is the first time the Red Phalarope has been recorded in Tennessee and is likewise the first listing of the bird for the Park area.—W. M. WALKER, *Knoxville, Tennessee.*

**Trumpeter Swans in Alaska.**—When I visited Ketchikan in 1940, agents of the Alaska Game Commission told me of swans that wintered in that vicinity, but it was not until March, 1944, that I was able to check on this personally. On