

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 identity 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

March 10, 1944, I flew with Ray Renshaw in an Alaska Game Commission plane over Prince of Wales Island, several smaller islands, and part of the Cleveland Peninsula. During the trip we counted over 300 swans. They looked big and the knowledge that Trumpeters were known to winter in the adjoining Queen Charlotte Islands and on the north end of Vancouver Island made it reasonable to believe they were of that species.

In March, 1945, Dan Ralston, the Wildlife Agent in Ketchikan, made a one-day check from a plane and counted 257 swans on Prince of Wales Island, six on the Cleveland Peninsula, and 61 on Revillagigedo Island, or a total of 324 birds. He knows of about 25 more that winter on the mainland from South Behm Canal to Cape Fox, an area which could not be covered in the survey. This makes a total of about 350 wintering birds in the Territory.

On April 4, 1945, at Ward's Lake, Ralston found a dead swan and forwarded the bones to me for identification. It was a Trumpeter Swan. This seems to settle the question of identity and to increase greatly the total known wintering population of Trumpeter Swans on the Northwest Coast.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.*

Brown Pelican colony on Cape Romain Refuge increases.—The nesting colony of Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*) found on the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Charleston County, South Carolina (near the northern limit of the Atlantic Coast breeding range of this species) has shown a continued and satisfactory increase.

For many years the nesting colony has been situated in several sites now in the refuge, the best location having been the tallest dunes at the southern end of Cape Island. In 1943 the birds abandoned these dunes for those on the southern end of the adjacent Raccoon Key, and in 1944 the birds again nested on Raccoon Key. In that year the first spring observation of a pelican on the refuge was made on February 24; by the middle of March the birds were commonly observed.

A nesting site was selected on the tallest dunes. The colony was first visited for close examination on April 20, at which time about 300 adult pelicans were present and egg-laying was well under way. A total of 133 nests had been constructed, of which two contained three eggs, 23 had two eggs each, 25 had one egg, and 83 nests were only partly completed. Three days later, two nests contained the maximum of four eggs. Although the incubation period started between April 20 and 25, egg-laying continued over a long period.

On the twenty-seventh of May, 507 nests were found in the area and by the twenty-third of June, 559 nests had been counted; later counts revealed that a few more nests were built even after this latter date. The nests, of dune grasses, herbaceous plants, and beach drift, were built on the ground in an area of dunes only one-quarter of an acre in extent. Hatching began on or about May 19 and extended to July 26. On that date a count of 575 young birds, still unable to fly, was made. Since the average number of eggs per nest had been three, it was obvious that, even with no losses from human disturbance or tidal action, natural nesting loss was high. The colony was last visited on September 16, at which time there were 25 young still in the flightless stage. Throughout the summer, examinations of food remains about the nesting site indicated that 95 per cent was menhaden (*Brevoortia*) and five per cent was mullet (*Mugil*) and other species.

Although the largest number of adults observed together at the nesting colony was 750, the nest count indicated that at least 1,120 were in the vicinity. In