

**III. OBSERVATION ON THE BEHAVIOR OF A MALE  
DICKCISSEL, SPIZA AMERICANA DURING  
THE NESTING PERIOD**

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A male dickcissel which the writer observed took no part in the building of the nest, incubation or rearing of the young, but faithfully sang encouraging songs for his toiling mate and proved himself, "Lord and Master of his Household," by using force to cause the female to resume her task of incubation after she had been frightened from her nest and had manifested too great fear to return.

This female deposited five eggs, only four of which hatched. She laid an egg each morning for five consecutive mornings then began the task of incubation.

The incubation period was from ten to eleven days, probably 250 to 255 hours to be more exact; for I neglected to record whether it was at my morning or afternoon visit that I noticed that the last fertile egg had hatched. So far as I am aware this is the first published account of the incubation period of the dickcissel.