

worthy of a mark of special attention from the local students of bird life, visits to the farm were made, on Mr. Saunders invitation, by Mr. W. A. D. Lees and the writer, both of whom obtained very satisfactory interviews at close quarters. The bird is a male in fine plumage: the sulphur-yellow breast, black throat patch and white chin are well marked, as well as the ashy tracts on the sides of the head. Mr. Saunders has seen it daily since 15th June, always haunting the same locality on the farm, an area of not more than three acres, and singing almost all day long. He has not been able, so far, to find either mate or nest, though once or twice a bird has been seen which he hoped might prove to be the female dickcissel, but which would not permit him to come near enough for identification.

In the hope that they may be nesting it has been thought best not to "collect" the male bird. They will be protected on the Experimental Farm, and possibly may return another year.

Since the above observation was made Mr. W. E. Saunders of London, Ont., who was the first to discover the dickcissel at Point Pelee in 1884, writes that he has seen several of the species this season in the County of Middlesex.

A. G. K.

The Air at Ottawa.—Mr. F. T. Shutt, F.I.C., President of the O.F.N. Club and Mr. Anthony McGill have sent the OTTAWA NATURALIST a copy of their recent paper entitled: "*Some Observations on the quality of air at Ottawa.*"* In this paper the authors give some of the results obtained by them in the work they undertook at the instance of the Department of Public Works to examine the air of the House of Commons Chamber at Ottawa. The methods employed are described, and the results appear in the form of estimations of the carbonic acid present in the air on Parliament Hill. The authors say:—"It will be seen that the quantity (of carbonic acid) varied from 3.0682 volumes per 10,000 on the 11th June to 3.7177 per 10,000 on 13th June." The experiments were made in 1892 and the presence of CO₂ was estimated by Pettenkofer's Process. The mean amount of carbonic acid gas (omitting the first estimation made) is 3.5918 volumes per 10,000. Compared with results obtained in other cities the quality of the air on Parliament Hill is excellent.—H. M. A.

*Trans. Royal Society of Canada, Vol. XII, Sec. III, 1894.