

GENUS SPIZA.

- (*) (604) **Dickcissel.**
(*Spiza americana*.)

Mr. Saunders has recorded the occurrence of this bird in south-western Ontario as a summer resident, and I have heard of it at other points along our southern boundary.

FAMILY TANAGRIDÆ. (THE TANAGERS.)

Bill in our species stout, finch-like, considerably longer than broad, and more or less evidently toothed near the middle of upper mandible. Tarsus scutellate; legs short, claws long. Colours brilliant in the males.

GENUS PIRANGA.

- (608) **Scarlet Tanager.**
(*Piranga erythromelas*.)

Tolerably common summer resident; breeding throughout its range in the Province.

Arrives early in May; departs towards the end of August.

- (*) (610) **Summer Tanager.**
(*Piranga rubra*.)

A very rare visitor to the south-western part of the Province. Stragglers have been taken at various places as far east as Toronto.

FAMILY HIRUNDINIDÆ. (THE SWALLOWS.)

Bill short, broad, triangular, depressed, the gape wide and about twice as long as the culmen, reaching to about opposite the eyes, similar in its form to that of the Swifts and the Goatsuckers, with which birds, however, the Swallows have no affinity. Rictus without bristles; wings very long and pointed, secondaries very short. Tail more or less forked. Feet weak; tarsus scutellate. Plumage compact, and more or less lustrous.

All are remarkably strong on the wing, and while with us entirely insectivorous.

The economic importance of these birds is very great; without them the smaller winged insects would multiply to such an extent as to become an unbearable nuisance to men and animals; for it is, I believe, to these birds chiefly that we are indebted for our freedom, in the cleared and cultivated parts of the country, from the swarms of midges, black flies, and gnats of various kinds that so abound in the woods.

These birds seem to have a great predilection for the society of men, partly because the clearing he makes in a forest country opens up to them the necessary space for feeding grounds and partly because the