

bird breeding here, but it was never again positively identified. June 11 is an extremely late date for *Picoides arcticus* in this region, but I have since learned that one was recorded this year at Concord, Mass. (about fifty miles southeast of here) on June 17.—FREDERICK M. CAPEN, *Winchendon, Mass.*

The Nest of *Automolus ochrolaemus pallidigularis* Lawrence.—

While studying at the Barro Colorado Biological Station in the Panama Canal Zone I recently had the opportunity of observing the nest of this Furnarid. On March 23, 1926 my companion, Mr. F. M. Gaige, found the nest in a hole near the top of a perpendicular cut bank in hard clay, four feet above a small stream running through heavy jungle. He discovered it by watching the parent bird bringing small lizards to the young. The next day I accompanied him to the nest and collected the female as she came to the hole carrying in her bill a small lizard (of the species known at present as *Anolis limifrons*). The nest, which contained two half grown young, was situated at the end of a horizontal tunnel over sixty cm. deep and was composed almost entirely of a single kind of slender leaf stalk about ten cm. in length. The nest was quite bulky with a shallow cavity some ten cm. across and a thickened rim or approach on the side toward the entrance hole. The birds and nest are now in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan.

Dr. Witmer Stone (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil., 70, p. 262, 1918) has recorded a nest of this species collected by L. L. Jewel at Gatun in 1911. This nest is described as "situated in a tree fork, seven feet up." In answer to a query of mine Dr. Stone writes "no doubt there was some error" for Jewel "referred to the specimens by number in his notebook and such a method always opens up a way to error."—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

Death of Young Phoebes due to Over-feeding?—I am indebted to S. Harkness McCrea, of Darien, Connecticut, for the data here presented, which seem sufficiently unusual to warrant permanent record.

According to Mr. McCrea, a pair of Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) built their nest in April, 1925, on a shelf in the recessed entrance to his studio at Darien. The nest was located but five feet from an electric light that apparently was frequently burned to a late hour. Two sets of eggs were laid. A Cowbird's egg was deposited with the first and was removed, but only one of the Phoebe eggs hatched. The electric light naturally attracted many night-flying moths, which the adult Phoebe would catch throughout the evening to feed her single offspring. This bird soon died and the second set of eggs was laid. All five of these were successfully hatched and the same procedure was again followed. The young were kept literally stuffed with moths, the parents frequently continuing feeding as late as midnight. All of these young died when they were about half fledged.