

sites seemingly available excepting to the extent that the area happens to be unoccupied by the parent birds or other adults of the previous season.

It appears to the writer that banders should not only have the above considerations in mind but that they should determine the spacing law for as many species as possible, (that is, what is the average minimum distance between occupied nests?), (1) because in itself the matter is of biological importance, and (2) because the information will aid them to place a proper estimate on the return data at their stations during nesting-time.

NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE PHOEBE

BY A. W. HIGGINS

ONE night in April, 1925, while on an errand under my barn, and carrying a lantern, I noticed that the Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) which nest there were attracted by the light and came flying about me. I noticed also the position of a Phoebe's nest and that one bird roosted on a spike. The effect of the light brought to my mind the idea that I might band these birds by the use of a flashlight. So the following evening, April 18th, I again visited the cellar with a flashlight and found the female Phoebe on the nest covering two eggs, and banded her (No. 155135). The male was roosting on the same spike driven in one of the floor timbers, so I banded him (No. 155134), thus getting them as a pair with the sexes determined. The process of using the flashlight was as follows: Entering the cellar with the light off, and knowing the approximate locations of the nest and spike, I worked as closely as possible, and then used the flash for a second to locate the nest. Then in the dark, I clasped the bird in my hand and banded her. The same method was used on the male bird.

During the season of 1925 Phoebes No. 155134 and 155135 hatched two broods of five each. The first brood was destroyed by some enemy soon after the birds were hatched, and I banded only three of the second brood, Nos. 155151, -52, and -54. Each brood contained five birds.

On the evening of June 26, 1925, I again visited the barn on the next place to mine and banded the female, No. 155144, and a brood of five young, Nos. 155145, -46, -47, -48, and -49.

Near the last of March, 1926, I saw my first Phoebe about the place. On the evening of April 5th I visited my barn-cellar and there, perched on the same spike, I found No. 155134, a return to the same nesting-site, or at least to the same spike. His mate was very late in returning, and was not seen until early May, but she seemingly hurried nest-building to make up, constructing a nest on top of the second nest used in 1925. I tried twice in the dark to capture her, but she was too shy.

Of their first brood of five, I banded only one, No. 167191, on June 2nd; the others escaped. However, I had better luck with the second brood, getting the mother as well as all five young and, best of all, the female was our friend of last year, No. 155135, returned with the same mate and to the same nesting-site. I banded the young, Nos. 167205, -6, -7, -8, and -9 on July 17th. These were hatched in the same nest as the other brood, making three consecutive broods in the same nest. During 1925 and 1926 Nos. 155134 and 155135 had four broods of five each (twenty birds), of which I banded nine.

Now as to the female banded at my neighbor's door in 1925, I visited the nest on June 13th and found an unbanded female on the nest, which I banded, No. 167192, and I also banded her five youngsters, Nos. 167193, -4, -5, -6, and -7. In this case No. 155144 of last year failed to return to the same place. Of course she may have met with a mishap.

The second pair of Phoebes banded on my own place in 1925 has failed entirely to appear in 1926.

By careful study through two seasons I have found that both the Phoebes and the Song Sparrows lay their eggs between the hours of sunset and daylight. This was determined by the study of four different pairs of birds.

Rock, Massachusetts.

A FOUR-COMPARTMENT DRIP WARBLER TRAP

BY CHARLES L. WHITTLE

THE modified Chardonneret warbler trap described in the July, 1925, *Bulletin* has proved of value at Mrs. Whittle's station in Peterboro, New Hampshire, such birds as the Least Flycatcher, Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Purple Finch,