

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,

etc., being captured. This trap is 18" x 18" x 18" with one top door. It is an excellent trap, but lacks capacity, and its size seems unnecessarily large. It also requires too much attention. Purple Finches will spring it so often that it actually becomes a nuisance to tend it, taking one bird at a time. In banding birds, advantage should be taken of the baiting quality of a trapped bird. An individual trap foregoes this advantage. To overcome this difficulty, a four-compartment warbler trap has been devised, having dimensions of 28" x 28" x 14". It is divided, as shown in the photograph on p. 76, by two partitions, making four rooms each 14" x 14" x 14", and each room has a warbler entrance on the top, as shown.

There are two gathering doors at diagonally opposite corners. These may be hinged, or, as in the picture (left), held in position by a prop. There are two other doors at the bottom on the inside, hinged horizontally next the ground, and wires extend along the hinge to the outside having a right-angle turn, which serves to open and close the door. The purpose of these doors is to speed up the removal of the birds. One of these inner doors connecting the two left-side compartments can be seen lying flat. This is shut (raised vertically) when trap is set. When the trap is full, open the inner doors, thus connecting the two compartments on the left and the two on the right.

The trap is made of No. 3 galvanized wire-cloth and reinforcement is secured by turning a hem. A 16-inch flowerpot-saucer is sunk in the ground flush with the surface and placed centrally so that each compartment has one fourth its area.

The trips (two can be seen) should be made of dry, light twigs, having say two forks and about a quarter of an inch in diameter at the larger end which should be notched slightly. The notches engaging the pine sticks attached to doors should be well undercut.

The drip device needs no description except to say that the bucket holds ten quarts and sets on a piece of wood from the woodpile, the water supply being regulated by a small clamp.

The trap has been in actual use less than a week and has taken over sixty birds,—Purple Finches mainly, but also several Song and Chipping Sparrows, one White-throat, one Black and White Warbler, and one Water-Thrush.

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