

flesh, with no visible marks of injury, an astonishing state of affairs in view of the fact that the bird and its three nest-mates had had to withstand the attack of thirteen large blood-sucking maggots. The young Worm-eating Warblers also appeared healthy and vigorous, but we did not examine them in the hand for fear of frightening them from the nest prematurely.

Mrs. Nice has full notes on the history of the young Song Sparrows, including daily weights. She reports that while slow in growth at first, the nestlings later caught up in weight, so that there was little difference between them and other unparasitized (presumably) nestlings.

I am greatly inclined to the opinion that the *Protocalliphora* larvæ normally leave the nest at maturity, dropping to the ground to pupate, unless prevented from doing so, as in the case of cavity-nesting birds or birds which use mud in the construction of the nest, like the Robin and the Barn Swallow. In the case of the Song Sparrow nest, none of the puparia or larvæ were in the nest-material, but were lying outside of it in the paper sack.

It will be noted that the parasites in the nest of the Prairie Warbler were taken before the young birds would normally have left the nest; the nest of the Worm-eating warbler was already on the ground; while the nest of the Carolina Wren was in a metal receptacle which prevented the escape of the larvæ. On the other hand, I have examined dozens of abandoned "open" nests, all with negative results. This theory, if correct, would explain the high percentage of parasitism, as shown by the records, of hole-nesting birds, and the relatively few records of *Protocalliphora* for birds nesting in the open. As a matter of fact, I strongly suspect that the latter are actually parasitized as heavily as the former.—EDWARD S. THOMAS, Ohio State Museum, Columbus, Ohio.

Two White-throated Sparrow Returns.—Great was the surprise of my fire-maker one morning in November last when on opening the kitchen stove to kindle it she saw a bird fly out. The bird fluttered to a window and was easily caught, when it proved to be White-throated Sparrow 34-143765 banded in January, 1935. The bird was put into a cage and left on the porch for my inspection. When I appeared I found that a cat had knocked over the cage and was trying to get the bird, but I arrived in time and released the bird unhurt, although very sooty and, I hope, fully resolved to explore no more stove pipes.

Number A101873 made a return less dramatic but very instructive as to the danger of making assumptions about birds that fail to return to the traps. This one was found dead on November 8, 1935, near a screened porch, having probably flown against the screen. The records showed it had been banded April 21, 1929, had returned October 26, 1929, October 27, 1930, and never since. This is my longest record on this species, but the bird had not entered my traps for five years, although quite probably wintering regularly on the place. The bird was at least seven years old.—MARION A. BOGGS, Wavnesville, North Carolina.

Known History of Eastern Phœbe B127877.—Since female Phœbes (*Sayornis phœbe*) are rather consistent birds in returning in successive years to their former year's nest-site, as I and others have proved by banding, among my records there stands out preeminently that of female No. B127877, banded on June 11, 1931. She was trapped in a Chardonneret trap by using the young as an enticement. In the following years she would not enter this trap or any trap and had to be taken at night while on the nest by a the use of strong light.

In 1931 she reared one brood of four at the iron-railed red bridge just below our garden, where Phœbes have nested for years on the central steel cross-stripping that supports the structure in the middle. The young were also banded, and they left the nest June 11th, after which date neither young nor adults were positively identified in the vicinity that year. But after they had gone, another unbanded pair relined their nest and reared a brood, which flew on July 29th. On June 3, 1932, B127877 was taken as a return-1 at this bridge when her second brood of five young were half feathered, and on July 14th her second brood of four were

banded. Throughout the 1933 nesting season nothing was seen of B127877. Instead, another pair (possibly the pair that reared a late brood the preceding season) settled at the red bridge, and possibly kept B127877 and her mate away if they did come back. This unbanded female was accordingly caught and banded on May 21st when incubating five eggs, and she reared two broods. On June 7, 1934, B127877 once more came back. Of her first seasonal brood three were banded on May 28th when partly feathered, and there were two addled eggs flattened into the nest. The second brood of the year was not banded. But the third brood, of four, were tagged on July 25th. Within a few days of her mate's arrival the following spring, this female returned again; and on June 7, 1935, was taken as a return-3, at least five years old. She again selected the habitual spot—no doubt because it was the most convenient spot on the eastern side of the bridge and an accustomed one—and a brood of five, of which one died in the nest, were reared and banded. After a period of rest in which she relined the nest for a second attempt and was ready to lay another clutch of eggs, an ignorant lad without realizing the harm in his act, took the nest for his nest collection. B127877 and her mate immediately disappeared.

In all, after over four years of nesting, this female and her mate, or mates, have reared to a flying stage twenty-eight young; only two eggs have been addled, and one youngster died. It has been noticed at this nest and others that the first nestings are invariably pretty free from parasitic pests, but second nestings may be literally overrun with mites and possible third broods will often be forced prematurely into leaving the nest. I am of the opinion that mites invariably prevent Phœbes from raising a third brood, which they might easily do, coming back early each spring, as is habitual with the species. Destruction of infested nests, in my experience, usually tends to drive the breeding birds to a new location, but powdered sulphur scattered under the old nest-lining, soon after the young have flown, is a feasible eradicant.

At the close of the 1935 breeding season Phœbe B127877 was at least five years old; how much older she may be is unknown, since she was an adult when banded and might have nested at the red bridge in former years. However, her record outmatches by two years any of the other female Phœbes recorded at my banding station.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, East Westmoreland, New Hampshire.

Sparrow Migration at Shirley, Massachusetts.—Since the location of my farm in Shirley, Massachusetts, seems to be in the line of migration of the White-throated and other sparrows, I decided this fall (1935) to make an extra effort to trap as many as possible. A year ago I had developed a very simple and pretty effective sparrow trap, one which would apparently catch four or five sparrows to every one caught by the Government Sparrow Trap. During the summer I made about thirty of these traps, and when the sparrows arrived, the traps were set at distances from each other varying from one hundred feet to two hundred or more yards, depending on the immediate surroundings. I made the rounds in my Ford truck, the total distance per trip being about two miles. Every trap was near the edge of second-growth woods or brush, with the exception of three which were probably seventy-five feet distant from such cover in a weed-grown young apple orchard. These traps caught very few birds.

From the outset the chipmunks were a serious pest. I trapped between fifteen and twenty of them, and probably an equal number were there but were not caught. They were responsible, I feel sure, for the deaths of several birds in the traps. They probably ate up three quarters of the grain I put out in some of the best locations, and I do not think the sparrows enter the traps freely when the chipmunks are there first. For some time my route was also patrolled by a big wild black tom-cat. This meant that day after day one or several traps would have the exit doors knocked away and there would be no sparrows waiting for me. It was not until the end of the migration that the cat met his Waterloo. The grain I used was two parts fine cracked corn and one part golden millet. In a few traps I put sunflower seeds occasionally. These were the means of capturing five Blue Jays.