

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.

I doubt if the grain mixture is the best possible. The cat and the chipmunks made me want to give up the battle sometimes. I thought the traps were the very best until Mr. Wharton developed what appears to be a much better one. On October 7th, 130 birds were trapped, 62 being new ones and on the four busiest days, October 5-8, 397 birds were trapped and 207 new ones were banded. The total new birds from September 23d, when the first White-throat was caught, until October 16th, when only one new one was banded and we had to take in the traps, was 560, of which 318 were White-throats. Of the remainder there were 123 Song Sparrows, 2 Swamp Sparrows, 9 Lincoln's Sparrows, 20 Field Sparrows, 9 Chipping Sparrows, 17 White-crowned Sparrows (2 adults), 14 Juncos, 27 Savannah Sparrows, 4 Vesper Sparrows, 12 Towhees, 3 Catbirds, 1 Brown Thrasher, and 1 Black-poll Warbler. There were fewer Field and Swamp Sparrows about than a year ago. Chipping Sparrows were numerous but they did not enter the traps readily. One Swamp Sparrow had an almost perfect "cross-bill," but had evidently solved the food-gathering problem and was in very good health. It did not appear to me that more than the usual number of sparrows were on migration through my station.

The peak of the White-throat migration was on October 7th, when 47 were banded, their numbers having gradually increased since September 23d, from which date they gradually decreased to October 16th. 171 of them repeated, that is, 53.7 per cent. Only two stayed as long as two weeks.

The Song Sparrows were always well scattered over the route and did not make a very great showing at any time. In the last week of September 27 were banded, in the first week of October, 51, and in the second week of October there were 30 new ones. This may indicate a migratory peak from October 1st to 7th, but I do not feel that it furnishes conclusive proof. One of the Song Sparrows caught had been banded as a juvenile on August 7th in Groton, about six miles away, by Mr. W. P. Wharton. There were no other returns or recoveries for any of the species.

In order to get an adequate number of returns from sparrows it is necessary to band large numbers. It seems as if others ought to be able to plan an intensive campaign in favorable territory for the few weeks necessary by operating a similar trap-line.—E. M. DAVIS, Winter Park, Florida.

**A Tree Swallow Rears a Cliff Swallow.**—Most of the young Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) had left the nest-boxes when, on June 30, 1935, a young Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*) was brought to me, then about two-thirds feathered. The only thing I could do with it, with a hope of saving its life, was to put it in with a nestful of young Tree Swallows, and this was done at Box 6 with a brood that had been banded on the 25th and, at this date (30th), were completely feathered. It was mid-afternoon when the experiment was tried. As an immediate result, the young swallows flew from the box after some ten minutes had elapsed. When the young Tree Swallows were returned to their nest, they again left, and remained in the near-by shrubbery at least that night. The female, 34-51591, did not find the young Cliff Swallow a sufficient reason to leave the nest but accepted the addition. When the Cliff Swallow was introduced into the box with the young Tree Swallows, they became uneasy and shifted about in nervous excitement that found its culmination in their leaving. The female fed the Cliff Swallow and successfully reared it until it flew. Unfortunately it had not been banded, since the experiment had been looked upon as a doubtful attempt.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, East Westmoreland, New Hampshire.