

complete silence and absence to loud chips and even bill snappings. This reaction appears to be entirely a behavior characteristic of the individual adult and does not depend on the stage of development of the nestlings. No Phobes have deserted the nest because of our handling of the nestlings.

Two of our observations illustrate the extreme reluctance of Phobes to desert their nests. One cabin was freshly spray-painted. Evidently the nest was covered during the operation because neither the inside of the nest nor the young which flew at our approach had white paint on them, but the outside of the nest was painted along with the beam it rested on. At a bridge location in open farm country the bridge was completely refloored and the young later fledged. Both operations occurred shortly after the young hatched.

It appears that in some areas of the State College region the Phoebe has reached its maximum breeding population. All existing nest locations (bridge, cabin, etc.) are occupied. Territory conflicts have already occurred between birds nesting on cabins located within sight of each other.

Although no adults have been banded we feel that many of our adult birds are returning to the same nest sites each year. In a few locations the same nests have been used all three years. The behavior patterns of the adults in many locations have remained the same through all our bandings. The clutch size is another reason for our feeling - several locations have consistently had six eggs in the first clutch and five in the second. We hope that another year we will be able to capture and band some of the adults. By banding the adults on the left leg we will be able to tell on sight the returning adults (all nestlings have been banded on the right leg).

We look forward to continuing and expanding the project in the future. The Phobes can be found if suitable nest sites are searched.

TROUT RUN, PENNSYLVANIA
By Walter K. Bigger

This portion covers a small section of Lycoming, Sullivan and Columbia Counties. Principal mountain areas are Burnett's Ridge, Alleghany Ridge and North Mountain lying generally to the north and east of Williamsport. The names of the streams are descriptive: Big, Short and Long Runs, several Dry Runs and a very Pleasant Stream. There are half a dozen Mill Creeks, of course a Fishing Creek, and Elk Creek, Painter and Wolf Runs in honor of those departed species. In memory of the early settlers there are Joe Gray, Murray, King, Engle, Wallis, Slacks, Martins, Calebs, Greys and Bovier. Among many others there are Big and Little

Muncy Creek, Big and Little Bear, Sugar and Little Sugar, Potash and Salt, Red Run and Green Creek. Finally, (and note our address) we follow two Trout Runs to band Phobes.

Unlike the previous section I have located four nest sites with little or no overhead protection. The first nest was located in the girders of a steel and concrete bridge and after rain the nest was actually soggy. This Phoebe successfully raised a brood in 1960. In 1961 the nest was rebuilt in the same location. Five eggs were laid but were destroyed by human predators. She then moved under the bridge, built another nest and laid four eggs. It too was destroyed. The second nest was fastened to the exposed side of a concrete bridge. The nest actually leaned away from its base and if the bird were to attempt to raise four or five young it would probably crash to the ground. Building under this bridge is nearly impossible since it is in the shape of an inverted U. The last two were located on bridges with open mesh work floors and both had eggs but I never returned to check on final results.

One nest is located in an old house that is falling slowly into the cellar. The builder was successful in raising two broods during 1961, despite the fact that the immediate area should be labelled "Rattle-snake Crossing". Nests along with several nests of Barn Swallows have been found in barns.

The favorite spot is a bridge, regardless of size and since most small bridges are constructed with steel I-beams they provide handy shelves for nests. On one I-beam bridge I located seven nests all side by side. Three contained eggs, none was successful. On the last trip through that area I removed all old nests except one. On a concrete bridge of recent construction I found a Phoebe's nest built on top of a Barn Swallow's nest. The walls were so smooth that only Swallows could make mud stick and the Phobes had made use of it.

The Phobes will build on artificial projections if they are provided. On two abandoned concrete bridges in my area I have fastened pieces of scrap lumber to provide a shelf. These bridges are full of small cracks and it was very easy to nail a shaped shelf in a sheltered spot. Both shelves were successful as nesting sites. During my travels in 1961 I fastened several more shelves to wooden beams on bridges where there were no Phoebe nests. However most wooden bridges do not need any shelf. In Columbia County we have more of the old covered bridges than in any other county in the state and every one that I have checked has contained a Phoebe nest.

The first size 1 bands I used were on nestling Phobes. The nest was located in an old wagon shed on the abandoned farm which we call home. This particular nest was used for three years and two broods were raised each year. In the spring of 1960 the adult bird moved her location about ten feet, built a new nest and raised her first brood. The old nest was

used for the second brood. In April 1961 I fastened two artificial shelves to other beams. The Phoebe built an outline of a nest approximately $3/4$ " high on each shelf but then improved the nest built in 1960 and raised her first brood. For her second brood she moved to the one remaining shelf (Barn Swallows had occupied the other) and raised her second brood. This nest is located about fifty yards NNW of the house and allows frequent observations. Records show the first egg of the second clutch was laid on 15 June, the fifth egg on 19 June. On the morning of 2 July the nest contained three newly hatched young and two eggs. No eggs were visible on 3 July. On 12 July there was one dead bird, one egg and three young birds large enough to band. The birds remained in the nest or sitting on the edge of the shelf until 23 July. The only time I ever touch a nest is when I band the birds. A snooper-stick is handy and only requires seconds to look in a nest.

Movement from one location to another is common on bridges where sites are available. In some cases the bird will move from one side of the stream to the other and from one concrete girder to another. On steel I-beam bridges movement is very common but always with overhead protection.

The largest concentration of Phoebes is located in a heavily forested area with a small mountain stream at least seven miles by road from the nearest permanently occupied dwelling. There are nine small bridges in about $3/5$ ths of a mile. Eight contain Phoebe nests. On my first trip through this area I had just banded four birds under one bridge and was climbing up the bank when a Forest Ranger stopped. He inquired how the fish were biting. I explained that I was banding birds, so he got out of the truck and volunteered to show me a nest under the bridge. It was located through a crack in the floor and the young were plainly visible. He told me that when the planking had been replaced a few weeks earlier there had been three eggs and he had been very careful that no hot tar was spilled on the nest. For the second brood this bird moved her nest location about eight inches to a spot where she had overhead protection. Another small concentration is right at home; the previously mentioned nest 50 yards NNW, others at 50 yards E, 120 yards E, 550 yards E, 450 yards W, 1,000 yards W and 1,500 yards W. All these nests are located in buildings, but one is under the porch steps of a neighbor's house, barely two feet off the ground.

I have found only one nest with the young of Brown-headed Cowbirds. This nest was on one of the artificial projections fastened to an old bridge. The Phoebe was successful in raising a second brood of four young.

Two Phoebes have been successful in raising six young in one brood. The first also laid six eggs for her second clutch, however only three young survived to leave the nest. The other bird raised six in her second clutch but I have no record of her first sitting. Another bird

raised only one from her first clutch. She changed ends of the bridge and raised five for the second sitting. In one location where there is a plentiful supply of insects the Phoebe has been successful in raising five birds from each clutch for four successive sittings. These are the exceptions. Records show the greater number of eggs are laid for the first clutch and the majority are successful, more failures in the second.

Table I summarizes my total for the two years I have been checking bridges. More time and mileage are responsible for the higher 1961 totals. The totals for the artificial projections are included in the concrete bridge figures.

Type	1 9 6 0			1 9 6 1				
	May	June	July	Totals	May	June	July	Totals
Concrete		13	42	55	41	32	157	230
Artificial					(8)		(16)	(24)
Steel I-beams		9	38	47	10	24	101	135
Barns						5	3	8
R.R.	3			3		1	5	6
Wood							12	12
Other	5		4	9	8		17	25
T o t a l s	8	22	84	114	59	62	295	416

This table shows that the majority of birds are banded during July, second nestlings. In 1960 I did not try to band Phoebes prior to 15 June and the same for 1961. In May 1961 I spent approximately eight hours banding Phoebes which hardly compares with the fourteen hours and over 200 miles on 11 July when I banded 105 nestlings.

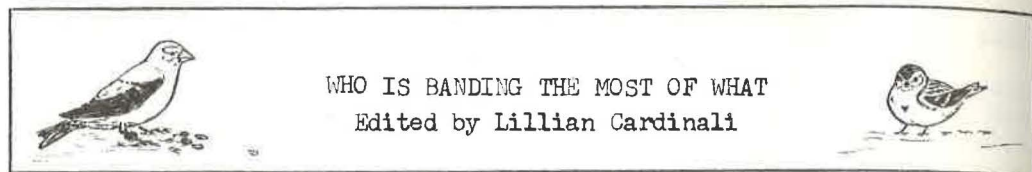
My records are very simple, a 4" by 8" card giving the stream name, bridge number, latitude and longitude to the nearest second. Several streams have no name. Others are merely a dry gully except during a rain. There are many streams with similar names and I band Phoebes on at least four Mill Creeks. Cards usually show number of eggs, young and approximate age, date of banding or otherwise and if a stepladder is required. I have given figures only on the successful nestlings. There are cases where the birds are too large to approach, too tiny to band and on the next visit they are gone.

Eggs are suddenly deserted but the most vicious of all are the human predators. Small boys will throw sticks, stones and mud at the bird nest which they cannot reach. Those within reach they dislodge and smash the eggs against the stone walls. In case of young birds they usually leave them where they fall. On one large bridge this past summer the Phoebe left the place after this type of harassment and a Robin decided to stay. This nest was dislodged when the young were about three days from flight stage. The nest fell partly in the stream, one bird was drowned, another

killed on the stones, and the other two were sitting in the shallow water when I found it. I replaced the remains of the nest and the two young birds. Within minutes the parents were feeding them. For this reason I carefully avoid any bridges where children may see me searching for bird nests. This practice eliminates quite a number of bridges but if one is willing to spend the time and effort, Phoebes will be found in spots of safety.

(Photographs, and cover photograph, by Dorothy L. Bordner. -Ed.)

Dorothy L. Bordner, 926 W. Beaver Ave., State College, Pa.
Walter K. Bigger, Star Route, Trout Run, Pa.



<u>AOU</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>WHO & WHERE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
703	Mockingbird	Dr. C. H. Blake (N. Carolina)	67
704	Catbird	B. Matlack & Wm. Savell (N. J.)	598
705	Brown Thrasher	B. Matlack & Wm. Savell (N. J.)	114
718	Carolina Wren	E. C. Clyde, Jr. (S. Carolina)	29
721	House Wren	Lillian Cardinali (N. J.)	113
725	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Betty Knorr (N. J.)	2
726	Brown Creeper	Mabel Warburton (N. J.)	87
727	White-breasted Nuthatch	Joseph A. Grom (Penna.)	43
728	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Tyler, Livesey & Whitman (Me.)	13
731	Tufted Titmouse	Joseph A. Grom (Penna.)	127
735	Black-capped Chickadee	Joseph A. Grom (Penna.)	206
736	Carolina Chickadee	Washington Crossing Station (Pa)	29
740	Boreal Chickadee	Lt. & Mrs. Morse (Maine)	5
748	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Wilcox & Terry (N. Y.)	122
749	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Wilcox & Terry (N. Y.)	56
751	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Joseph A. Grom (Penna.)	3
755	Wood Thrush	" " "	299
756	Veery	" " "	110
757	Gray-cheeked Thrush	" " "	44
758	Swainson's Thrush	" " "	274
759	Hermit Thrush	Matlack & Savell (N. J.)	68
761	Robin	Matlack & Savell (N. J.)	373
766	Bluebird	Robert Leberman (Penna.)	100

RFD #2, Box 460, Jamesburg, N. J.

(REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR 1961 BANDING TOTALS TO MRS. CARDINALI!! -Ed.)