were still in the vicinity of the nesting site.—FLORENCE ANNE SUMNER, *Elk Grove, California, June 21, 1933.*

Do Black Phoebes Eat Honey-bees?—On June 15, 1928, I put up a male specimen (1862 of the Nature Study Collection, Los Angeles City Schools) of the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) which was assertedly killed by the sting of a bee. Mr. Carl Philippi, Principal of the Paducah Street School, Los Angeles, related the circumstances as an eyewitness.

The phoebe had been frequenting the grassy front court of the school for some time past and had become an object of interested observation to pupils and teachers. Mr. Philippi keeps a hive of bees in this same court, situated close to the ground. While watching the phoebe, my informant says, he saw it go into an agitated flutter after one of its forage flights and shortly fall to the ground. He picked up the still living bird and found a bee sting lodged in the roof of the bird's gaping mouth. This he removed, but the phoebe soon died. Although the sting was not brought to me, Mr. Philippi's long experience with bees and their stings is sufficient to validate his identification.

Is the introduced honey-bee such a new faunal element in the habitat of Black Phoebes that there is no racial experience to direct behavior? And if so, is the honey-bee frequently attacked by the phoebe, and with what success? Apiaries are frequent in the territory occupied by Ash-throated Flycatchers (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), but with this exception, it is my impression that the Black Phoebe more than any other California flycatcher comes into direct association with the honey-bee, both wild and hived. I judge this on the common predilection of both bee and phoebe for water pools, canyon walls, lush verdure and cultivated greenery.

The Black Phoebe has expanded in territorial occupation with the advent of man's culture of the earth. In spite of the unsociability of the phoebe toward its kind, I feel that the numerical abundance is not consonant with the enlarged habitat now available to the species. It is not the thinness of distribution that is remarkable, for that is probably psychologically the phoebe's nature, but rather the great gaps and unoccupied areas. Are there factors affecting the Black Phoebe population adversely in its newer associations?

F. E. L. Beal in his "Birds of California in Relation to the Fruit Industry" (Part II, 1910, p. 37) says: "Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants) amount to over 35 percent of the yearly food. . . . The great bulk of this item is made up of wild bees and wasps." In Farmer's Bulletin 630, U. S. Department of Agriculture (revised 1923, p. 22) Mr. Beal states that wasps make up the largest single item. Yet in both the above citations evidence of honey-bee consumption is denied. "Not a trace of a honey-bee was found in any stomach," of 333 examined. Mr. W. L. McAtee, in charge of Food Habits Research, United States Biological Survey, in answer to my query wrote on June 27, 1932: "We do not yet have a record of the Black Phoebe eating a honey-bee."

I wonder if Black Phoebes should try to eat honey-bees, would they be successful enough at it to live until collected and promoted to the records as honey-bee eaters? The wild wasps and bees they eat are presumably small fry, yet the phoebe kills husky moths and millers of greater bulk than a worker honey-bee, one species being in body much larger than the drone honey-bee. In Mr. McAtee's letter referred to above, he says that honey-bees have been found "in the stomachs of the eastern Wood Pewee and in those of vireos." Nevertheless, it remains a question: Does the black phoebe eat honey-bees? To this I invite the evidence and observations of Cooper Club members.—ROLAND CASE ROSS, *City Schools, Los Angeles, California, March 22, 1933.*

Band-tailed Pigeons in Southern California.—During recent, frequent trips into the Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County, I have had occasion to make some observations concerning the Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). I herewith present my observations:

Pacoima Canyon (near Dillon's Ranch), November 5, 1932, approximately 50 pigeons observed among live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). This flock was seen throughout the day.