

RECORD OF THE NESTING OF A PAIR OF PHOEBES IN WEST NYACK, N. Y.

For three years (1950-51-52) the same pair of Phoebes nested on a small shelf which I nailed up about 5 inches below the ceiling in the sheltered entrance on the south side of our home. I banded this pair in 1950. The fourth year one of the pair returned, brought a few bits of wet moss to the shelf but did not build a nest.

In the 1950 nesting one Cowbird egg was laid in the nest 14 days before the first Phoebe egg was laid. The Phoebe continued building and finished the nest, thereby completely covering up the Cowbird egg.

In 1951 a Cowbird egg was deposited in the Phoebe's nest on the same day that the first Phoebe egg was laid. (I removed Cowbird egg and placed it in a Robin's nest which had three Robin eggs in it. Within 15 minutes there was no sign of the Cowbird egg in or nearby the Robin's nest.)

I kept detailed notes on the four nestings of the Phoebes but shall give only the length of time for nest building, incubation, time nestlings remained in nest and the number of eggs laid.

Year	Began building nest	Time for building nest	No. of eggs laid	Incubation to hatching	Age of nestlings when they left nest
1950	Apr. 28	26 days	5 eggs in 5 days	Eggs destroyed by Blue Jay	0
1951	?	?	(May 7 - 9) 3 eggs in 3 days	17 days	17 days
1952	Apr. 2	19 days	5 eggs in 5 days	17 days	18 days
2nd nesting in 1952	Repaired old nest June 2		4 eggs in 4 days	14 days	17 days

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