

**Florida Scrub Jay steals Blue Jay eggs.**—Many corvids, including Scrub Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), are widely known for eating eggs and young birds (Bendire 1895, Bent 1946), but published accounts of nest robbing are rare. Woolfenden (1974) reported evidence suggesting that Florida Scrub Jays occasionally eat eggs and nestlings of other Scrub Jays but did not actually witness such an incident. Specific causes of egg loss in jays are poorly known. Hilton and Vesall (1980) recorded 121 nesting attempts of Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), of which 92 attempts terminated unsuccessfully before fledging. They witnessed only one actual case of "predation" in which a boy took his cat up a tree, and the cat knocked a clutch of eggs out of the nest. I report here a case of a Scrub Jay stealing eggs from a Blue Jay nest. The incident occurred on 10 May 1981 at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Florida.

A Blue Jay nest was about 2 m high in a myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*) in sand pine scrub (Laessle 1942) dominated by 12-15 m tall sand pine (*Pinus clausa*). About 06 20 EST I saw a Scrub Jay hopping about in the clump of leaves surrounding the nest. A Blue Jay was perched on a branch about 1 m above the nest and made no effort to chase away the Scrub Jay. As I approached the nest, I could see another Blue Jay sitting in the nest. The second Blue Jay hopped off the nest and engaged the Scrub Jay in a physical battle in the nest tree. The two birds fought for about a minute, grappling beak-to-beak and foot-to-foot. For one period of several seconds, the Blue Jay was on top, wings and tail fully spread, holding the Scrub Jay down. At this point, the Scrub Jay began giving high-pitched distress calls, in apparent response to which at least four other Scrub Jays appeared. These four jays flew around within 5 m of the nest giving harsh scolding notes, but none of them came closer than 1 m from the nest. About a minute after the fight began, the two combatants stopped fighting, and the Blue Jay returned to its nest. The Scrub Jays remained in the area for a few more minutes, then gradually left. I examined the nest, causing the bird on the nest to leave, and found two eggs.

About 06 35, when I was away from the nest, two Scrub Jays returned to the vicinity of the nest but were apparently driven off by the Blue Jays. At 06 45 while I was still away from the nest, I heard the Blue Jays excitedly giving "jay" and "beetle" calls. I ran back to the nest and saw a Scrub Jay leaving it. The Scrub Jay dropped to the ground, picked up an object the size and color of a Blue Jay egg, and flew away. The Blue Jays continued to call excitedly. After 2-3 min, a Scrub Jay came back and hopped around the nest for several seconds while the Blue Jays called and dived at it a few times. The Scrub Jay then went to the nest, picked up a Blue Jay egg in its beak, and flew off. The Scrub Jay was silent during both of its trips to the nest, but the Blue Jays continued calling for several minutes after the Scrub Jay's last visit. I checked the nest at 07 05 and found it empty.

I may have contributed to the egg predation as I observed it by chasing the Blue Jay off the nest when I checked for eggs the first time. However, the Scrub Jay (or jays) clearly knew the location of the nest and visited the nest twice unsuccessfully before finally taking the eggs. One of the unsuccessful jay visits occurred after my first approach to the nest, so I clearly did not drive the Blue Jays completely away from the nest. I suspect that the Scrub Jay would have continued visiting the nest if I had not interfered and would have taken the eggs when an opportunity arose; certainly the inclination was there.

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**Possible nocturnal migration of the Eastern Kingbird in the Florida panhandle.**—Based on detailed notes on bird migration I have kept for over ten years, I consider the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) to be a common fall migrant in the Florida panhandle, often migrating westward in loose flocks of 30 to 80 birds along the coastal beaches and barrier islands. At Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, they reach their peak numbers between the third week of August and the third week of September. The largest flock I have observed included 110 birds on 26 August 1982. The site of my observations in Gulf Breeze is 0.4 km from the end of a 32-km long peninsula extending westward into Pensacola Bay. A barrier island lies about 5 km south and the mainland 5 km north and west.

The Eastern Kingbird is usually considered to be a diurnal migrant. I have seen them move west in loose flocks along the treeless portion of Dauphin Island, Alabama in mid-day. Lowery (1974, Louisiana birds, Baton Rouge Louisiana, Louisiana State Univ. Press) has observed large southbound diurnal movements in August and September in inland Louisiana. Skutch (Bent 1963, Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows and their allies, New York, Dover Publications, Inc.), noted that it migrated by day in Central America, and he watched large flocks of southward bound migrants roost at night in Honduras. Diurnal migration is also strongly supported by a lack of nighttime casualties at the WCTV TV tower located 58 km inland near Tallahassee, Florida. Crawford's (1981, Bird casualties at a Leon County, Fla. TV tower: a 25-Year migration study, Bull. Tall Timbers Res. Sta. 22, Tallahassee, Florida) data show that in 25 years (1955-1980) only 13 fall casualties of Eastern Kingbirds were reported, many fewer than nocturnally migrating species, for instance 1066 Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 1018 Veeries (*Catharus fuscescens*), and 4600 Red-eyed Vireos (*Vireo olivaceus*).

At Gulf Breeze, I have often seen Eastern Kingbirds moving west in late afternoon toward the end of the point, where they aggregate, flying back and forth just above treetops. On 16 Sept. 1982, near sunset, I watched a flock of