

I find in an old notebook for 1906, under date of May 9, in Georgetown, the story of a Blue Jay's nest (with five eggs of the beautiful buffy style) which was built out in the open, away from the woods, in a willow tree near a house. Another rather unusual situation was in May, 1910, in Plymouth, where I found a Jay's nest in a hedgerow close to houses on Summer street, just over the fence, in fact, from the sidewalk where people were continually passing. Miss Frances Vibert, writing in June, 1911, from Hartford, Conn., describes a Jay's nest "with young birds about big enough to fly" on Beacon Street in that city, which was built "on the turn of the gutter pipe just below the eaves of the verandah roof." Aaron C. Bagg writes from the western part of our state (Holyoke, April 18, 1925) that "a pair of Blue Jays are nesting across the street in a neighbor's yard, high up in a cutleaf maple." In Ware, in the west-central section of Massachusetts, I have known of Jays nesting in the street trees or in yards close to houses; and Mr. F. C. Moulton, of Ware, tells me of a Blue Jay that built in a small tree close by the open window of the noisy loom-room of one of the large local mills. In the Dorchester section of Boston a Jay nested a year or so ago in the ornamental vines just over the front door of an occupied house. But why prolong the tale? Similar reports of the familiarity of the Blue Jay, in and out of the breeding season, come from New Bedford, Brockton, Quincy, Malden, Newton, and other places in thickly-settled eastern Massachusetts.—J. A. FARLEY, 52 Cedar St., Malden, Mass.

Changed Habits of Blue Jay at Philadelphia.—Mr. Farley's note prompts me to publish my similar experience in Germantown, one of the northern suburbs of Philadelphia. When studying birds in Wister's woods and vicinity from 1880 to 1897, the Blue Jay was a very wild species occurring only during autumn flights, but upon returning to reside in the old neighborhood after some twenty-five years absence I found the bird's habits totally changed. I was surprised to find a pair of Jays present about the end of May, 1922, acting as if they were located for the summer. Later, I detected them constructing a nest in a beech tree close to the railroad station about ten feet above a path along which hundreds of persons passed to and from the trains, and not over fifty feet from the tracks. Next year and the year following they nested again in the same spot but in different trees once only thirty feet from the railroad tracks, and showed no apparent fear of trains or passing passengers.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

The English Starling at Chicago, Illinois.—On December 21, 1925, Mr. Roderick Van Trump described to me four "strange" birds that he and his brother had seen in Oak Park the day before. The birds in question had been observed feeding on the ground at close range and the size, actions and *yellow bills* placed them beyond doubt as English Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). These boys are enthusiastic Boy Scouts and I know them to