

of a mile from Gravesend Bay. It was not shy but perched first on the weed stalks and later on the ground, making short sallies into the air.

This is the first record for the New York region and one of a few east of the Mississippi. The date of first observation was September 25, 1926, and the bird was seen again on the 28th which is remarkably close to the date for a specimen taken at North Truro, Mass., September 30, 1889 (Howe and Allen, 'Birds of Massachusetts,' p. 80).—WARREN F. EATON, 65 Wortle St., New York, N. Y.

Habits of Blue Jays and Doves in Central Kansas.—Apropos of the remarks of Mr. J. A. Farley and Dr. Witmer Stone in 'The Auk' for April, 1926, page 239, regarding the changed habits of Blue Jays it is interesting to note that a similar condition prevails in this neighborhood. Jays instead of shunning civilization while breeding actually seem to seek it. The military reservation of some 30,000 acres of very varied country, constitutes a large sanctuary where birds abound. In the abundance of birds scattered over this differing terrain there is a notable concentration in the immediate vicinity of the buildings of the established post.

Blue Jays which are common in this region are especially to be found around the houses and lawns and breeding in the trees. Many nests were found in conspicuous positions around buildings; one in particular in the branches of an elm tree about 15 feet directly above the walk in front of my house. Four young were hatched about June 4, 1926 and remained in the immediate vicinity until late in August during which time the parents continued to feed them. They were very noisy and almost every morning were to be heard clamoring for food in the trees about the house. On one occasion a parent was observed hammering lustily on a limb at some object held between the feet. On frightening the Jay away it dropped a freshly killed and nearly full grown nestling English Sparrow.

It was further of interest to note that Mourning Doves preferred the vicinity of buildings to the wooded and secluded canyons of the back country by a ratio of at least ten to one. Most of the trees along the main walk contained a nest apiece some of which were used at least twice, several hundred young being raised. One nest in particular was of interest in that a family of Yellow-billed Cuckoos occupied it first in early June after which three families of Doves were raised in it in succession. The last hatching occurred as late as September 17.—LEON L. GARDNER, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Starling Nesting in Wisconsin.—On June 13, 1926, I discovered two adult Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) on a barn on the farm of John Geiger, about three miles south of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Mr. James Crookston was with me and for some time, with 9x binoculars, we observed the birds coming and going. I had seen Starlings in England during the war and was certain of the identification. Mr. Geiger had told me in early spring

of finding some unusual birds about his barns. They were again observed on June 18 and 19, and on the latter date a nest was discovered in the cornice on the east end of a small barn, about 35 feet from the ground. Mr. Geiger helped me remove some shingles and we examined the nest, finding four pale blue eggs. The nest was composed chiefly of dried grass. On the 23rd a new roof was put on this barn, sealing up the opening to the nest, but we had previously arranged to remove a small section of a cornice board which would allow the birds to enter the nest cavity. This new opening was used from then on. On this date young birds were heard in the nest.

On June 25, Mr. Geiger and I removed the young for examination and found them to be about half grown. The adults were again seen feeding the young on the 27th. On the 28th, while observing the nest with Rev. O. W. Smith of Evansville, a second nest was discovered on the north end of a large barn, about 40 feet from the ground. This nest was also in a cornice. On July 3, Mr. Geiger and I examined both nests, finding only one young left in the first one. The bird was removed and banded. At the second nest we could hear the young, but from the entrance it was impossible to reach them without destroying too much of the barn. I visited the farm on July 18 and on August 22 but no birds were observed on either occasion. None have been seen by the Geiger family since these dates.

These nests were probably second broods, for during one of the early visits, one full grown immature bird was noticed with the adults. The plumage was distinctly different, grayish in color, and the bill was dark. I know of no other Wisconsin records for the Starling except two adults taken in winter and reported by Herbert L. Stoddard, (*Auk*, Volume XL, page 537). These are probably the first redorded nests for the state.—S. PAUL JONES, 425 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, Wis.

Decrease in Starlings in New Hampshire.—So far as I have been able to observe, Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) seem to be decreasing extremely fast, although during the past two seasons their nesting activities have increased. In 1922 a few stragling individuals were seen in company with Crows about the middle of February, but only remained a short time and no others were recorded until the winter of 1923–24 when a flock of about 200 suddenly appeared apparently from nowhere and took up their abode here during Thanksgiving week. Since that time until last winter when I was unable to count more than 100 at a time, Starlings bore down upon us in flocks of 400, 500 and 600 each. They gleaned the frozen and rotted apples from the trees and the noise made by their whistles, squeeks, janglings and squawks was at times almost unbearable.

About twelve pairs remained to breed though I utterly failed to find their nests, and throughout the summer a few birds could be seen about the village. When winter came the Starlings appeared as before in flocks of hundreds foraging through the orchards of the surrounding hills,