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### GENERAL NOTES

**A Criterion for Young-of-the-Year in the Blue Jay.**—It is advantageous to distinguish young-of-the-year from adult birds in late summer and fall, but in species with no definite plumage differences between young and old, it soon becomes difficult, and although one may have a pretty good idea which are which, it is not good enough for the record.

At Mastic, Long Island, I trapped and banded 25 Blue Jays from July 4 to September 7, 1953. There were an adult and young together on July 4, two young on July 5. Though of the opinion that the 21 banded later were all young, I was not sure of the age of any of them.

A Blue Jay's bill is black or blackish, from the outside. They frequently open their mouths when being banded, and I was interested to note that the inside of the bill of one of the young, July 5, was white. Of two on August 8, one had the inside of the bill entirely white, the other white except for a large black blotch on the inside of the upper mandible; one on August 9 (No. 543-70811), white with considerable black. The last one in which it was noted as all white was on August 23; and a bird on September 6 had it white with black blotches.

The thought that white inside of bill, being replaced blotchingly by black, was characteristic of young Blue Jays of-the-year, had been formulated, when it was confirmed by the next Jay trapped, on October 28, at Garden City, Long Island. This had the inside of bill black with a couple of white marks. But it remained to check the hypothesis.

Four individuals taken at Garden City, respectively on February 19, May 8, 21, and June 19, 1954; as well as No. 543-70811 of August 9, 1953 (see above), trapped as a return at Mastic May 16, 1954, had the whole inside of the bill black.

Furthermore, five young birds trapped at Garden City July 2 to 20, had the whole inside of the bill white (bluish white in 4, greyish white in one). Incidentally, the entire mouth farther back was pink, in noticeable contrast with that of the four adults, February 19 to June 19, in which it had been mostly black. Finally, I trapped a young bird in Garden City on July 29 which had the inside of the bill bluish white except for a small lengthwise black spot on that of the upper mandible. But for this bill character I could only have guessed at its age.

My conclusion is that white (or black and white) on the inside of the bill of a Blue Jay is a criterion of a bird-of-the-year which lasts into the fall. It is tangible, not relative, and very easy to see.—J. T. Nichols, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.

**Bluebirds Attracted by Peanut Hearts.**—These are further observations along the line of the note "Bluebirds Lured to Ground Traps" in *Bird-Banding*, **25**: 112, 1954. The Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) is listed as a permanent resident in this area. No Bluebird has been taken in ground traps by us, but on our home acre 3 have been trapped (and banded) in a 4-cell Potter type trap on feeding trays placed on posts 4 or 5 feet above the ground as follows:

Band No.	Date Banded	Date Retrapped
21-116596 F	Jan. 18, 1953	Feb. 1, 1953 June 27, 1953
21-116872 M	March 23, 1953	—
21-171196 I or F	Oct. 25, 1953	—

The bait used was peanut hearts—the trade name given to the germ recovered as a by-product, in the manufacturing process.

We have been banding since March, 1946, but have never been able to attract Bluebirds to the feeding trays or the traps—until the early winter of 1952-53. At that time a pair of Bluebirds (male and female) found peanut hearts to their liking and came with increasing frequency. By the middle of January, 1953, they came regularly many times a day. Many visiting friends and adult and children's groups saw this pair of Bluebirds at close range through our observation "picture" window. This same pair (presumably, both banded) came regularly and continuously until late May and then gradually "tapered off" until late summer. A pair of banded Bluebirds (presumably the same birds) began coming for peanut hearts in October, 1953; they came regularly and continuously many times a day until late May, 1954. Thereafter they were seen less frequently but occasionally into July and August, 1954 (when this note was written). Although they were carefully observed, they were never seen to feed on anything but peanut hearts—although at times, apples, raisins, and other berries and fruits were available on the trays. During all of these times only 1 or 2 birds came at a time to the feeding trays.—Arthur H. Fast, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Va.

## RECENT LITERATURE BANDING

1. **XV. Report on the Bird-Banding in Hungary.** (A Maggar Madartani Intezet 1933-1950. Evi Madarjelölései. XV Jelentes.) Keve Andras. 1954. *Aquila* **55-58**, pp. 89-107. This compilation of returns and recoveries of 96 species of birds banded or recovered in Hungary is one of the first such lists available from the countries bordering the Iron Curtain. It contains a surprising number of records of birds banded outside Hungary, in Sweden, Finland, Germany, Holland, Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Italy, most of them pre-World War II. The respectable number of post-war recoveries, however, indicates a definite upsurge in general banding in central and eastern Europe, and shows several banding programs under way of which no mention has been made in current literature: the Italians have banded many Quail (*Coturnix*) in migration; the Czechs have evidently been banding gulls in quantity, the Russians have been banding numbers of waterfowl.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

2. **Portable Live Trap for Ducks, With Improved Gathering Box.** J. D. McCall. 1954. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, **18**(3): 405-407. Described in this article is a single-funnel collapsible trap with a unique gathering box. A hinged gate is placed at the back of the trap with one edge fastened to the vertical end of the trap at a point 4 to 6 inches above the water. When the ducks have retreated to the rear of the trap, a rope is pulled to raise the horizontal portion of the hinged gate to a vertical position and thus enclose the birds in a compartment above the water. Approximately 4,500 ducks had been taken in this type of trap at the time the article was written. Details on materials and construction are provided.—Helmut K. Buechner.

## MIGRATION

(See also Numbers 15, 33, 51, 52, 65)

3. **Migration near Maloja and on the Splügenpass in the fall of 1952 and 1953.** (Vogelzugbeobachtungen bei Maloga und auf dem Splügenpass im Herbst 1952 und 1953.) Ernst Sutter. 1954. *Ornithologische Beobachter* **51**(3): 109-132. This paper presents the results of the work of teams of observers in the Swiss Alps. Migration through the valleys and over passes was observed in unfavorable weather and with head winds. Under these conditions valleys and passes were used which did not conform to the normal direction of migration. With good weather and east winds the migration was observed at higher altitudes. These migrations occurred over a broad front and were little influenced by the valley system. Good weather migration occurred principally during the early morning hours.—R. O. Bender.