

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