

Fledgling Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) raised in captivity.—After a successful study with captured adult blue jays during the late summer of 1965 (Mitterling, L. A. 1966. Construction of a "beta-confinement" bird enclosure. *Bird-Banding* 37: 123-125) an attempt was made to raise young jays for more detailed studies in 1966. Despite later catastrophes, the fledgling study was measureably successful and three of them are shown in Fig. 1.

The jays from nest one (identified as jays 1 through 5 in Table 1) were taken on the night of June 19. These were smaller and younger than desired; only down was present in the caudal pteryla (tail region) although sheaths (rectrice shafts) with white apical barbs of some immature vaned feathers were developing, typical of 13 day old birds described by Arnold (1938. The systematic position and natural history of the northern blue jay *Cyanocitta cristata bromia* Oberholser. PhD Thesis. Cornell University). However, since the nest was disturbed and the adult agitated the removal was made as planned.

The jays from nest two (identified as 6 through 8 in Table 1) were taken on the evening of June 21. The ages of these were also unknown but they were older than those from nest one. One of them had to be captured after it flew to the ground, typical of 17 to 20 day old jays described by Arnold.

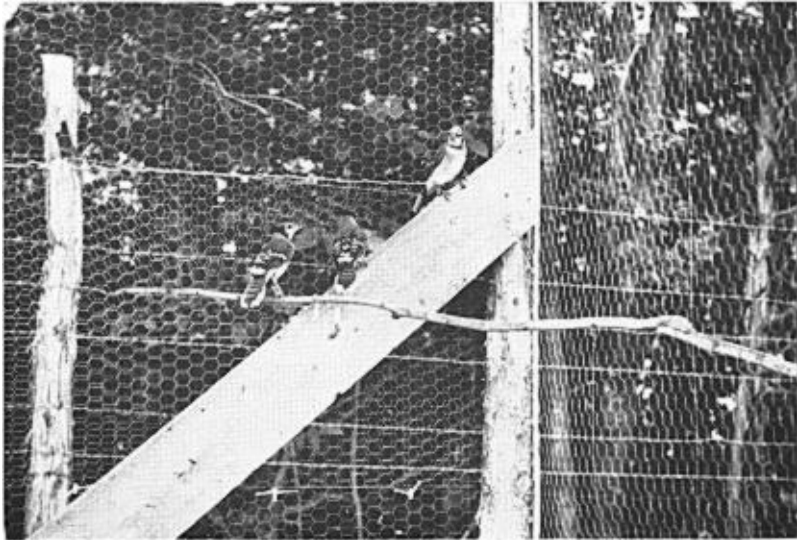


FIGURE 1. Three jays removed from the nest during the third week of June and raised to the body weight of adults July 1. Photographed July 3, 1966.

The jays from nest one ate readily from the first day. The jays from nest two did not eat readily and during the early feedings had to be forcibly fed. The feeding lessons they learned from the jays of nest one perhaps helped, but later their aggression had to be quelled when feeding the smaller jays.

When the birds were determined to have approached the weight of an adult bird it was decided to train them to self feeding with an adult, other methods having failed. Since they were being hand fed only twice a day, those from nest one were anxious to eat. Three of them died of "crazy food" poisoning when they were inadvertently fed some old wet mash. July 5 all five remaining young jays came to the feeding station for food. None of them would readily accept hand feeding on July 8, but they were not agitated by the active presence of people around the cage. The adult was in a continuous state of discomposure when any activity was conducted within 120' of the cage.

July 16, all jays appeared to be living comfortably but the feeding stations were made water tight to prevent an occurrence as happened with the wet mash earlier. The young jays permitted themselves to be handled, although with some reluctance, but jay 6 was particularly sassy and aggressive. At 9:30 A. M. on July 22 the young jays were found dead in the cage. Jay 7 was headless on the ground but only wings and other portions of jays 1, 5 and 8 were present. Jay 6 was found on the ground with a large open wound on the right femur. The adult was extremely agitated but apparently unharmed.

TABLE 1. CAPTIVE NESTLING BLUE JAY WEIGHTS DURING THEIR FLEDGLING PERIOD IN JUNE 1966.

Blue jay Identity	Dates weighted			
	June 20	June 23	June 27	July 1
	<i>Gms.</i>	<i>Gms.</i>	<i>Gms.</i>	<i>Gms.</i> ^a
1	68.0	65.0	80.0	83.5
2	65.0	60.0	76.0	81.0
3	66.0	64.0	77.0	82.0
4	69.0	63.5	78.0	83.5
5	68.0	65.5	83.0	87.5
6	—	68.0	78.0	77.0
7	—	75.0	79.0	80.0
8	—	76.0	81.0	84.0

^aAn adult captive jay, held in captivity 8 days, was 85.0 Gms. on July 1, 1966. The range of weights for adult jays captured in 1965 was 76.0 to 93.0 Gms.

The record on Jay 6, from nest two, is worth considering from the standpoint of imprinting. It was the last bird to feed without force feeding after capture; it was the first to feed from a self feeder (3 to 4 days sooner than the others); it was the first to fail to come to the hand feeding station and although it was "tame" it was wary. On June 29 it was treated for a wound on the upper mandible at the base of the beak. It was caused by pecking the wire mesh of a carrying cage, typical of captive adult activity. The injury was probably the major reason for its loss in weight on July 1.

Although the study was undesireably and prematurely concluded much was learned relative to the handling and feeding of the jays. The basic diet was a chicken starter mash containing antibiotics (supplied by the University Poultry Department). It was made into a wet mash mixture by milk or water to which hamburger or canned dog food was added. The mash with water and dog food appeared to have been the most acceptable. Lloyd A. Mitterling, Assistant Professor of Pomology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.

Two banding returns for Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.—Recoveries of two banded birds, one a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtos*) and the other a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)—have recently been reported to me by the U. S. Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland.

The Golden Eagle was banded as an immature and released near Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, Canada, on September 23, 1965. That bird, a photograph of which appeared in the *Blue Jay* (publication of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society) (23(4)), had been given to me a week earlier by an employee of the Taltson Power Station near Fort Smith. Golden Eagles have been observed nesting in the area.

On October 24, 1965, a Golden Eagle was observed at close range by Mr. Monte Lund on his ranch 20 miles east of Roy, Montana and it appeared that the