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GENERAL NOTES

An Indoor Blue Jay Nest.—During winter and spring, 1967, at Coventry, Connecticut, coarsely ground corn ("chick feed") was regularly scattered on the floor of a garage to provide food which remained accessible for wild birds despite snowfalls. Among the species seen entering the garage, undoubtedly to feed on the grain, were Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*). It is not certain that this provision of food influenced the subsequent selection of a nest site in the garage, but a relationship is suspected.

Throughout May and June, 1967, people regularly visited the garage on various chores, but usually remained inside for only a few moments. Nesting was first detected on May 14, when an adult jay was seen sitting on the completed nest in a relatively dark location near the ceiling. On several different days when I entered the garage an adult was on the nest and, despite my being nearby, remained silent and seemingly immobile, except for turning of its head, presumably to watch my movements. Although no special effort was made to study the history of this nest, it was noted that several large nestlings were present on June 11 but that the nest was empty on June 12. A juvenile jay seen in lilac (Syringa) bushes next to the garage on June 14 presumably was from this nest. During the latter part of the nestling period and for at least two days after the presumed fledging, one or both adult jays called loudly and made attacking dives when a domestic cat approached the garage. The cat was generally repelled by these attacks.

Surrounded by fields, lawn, trees, and bushes, the wooden garage was used for storing firewood, refuse, and miscellaneous items. The somewhat dilapidated building was approximately 5.7 meters wide, 4.9 m deep, and 2.64 m in maximal height. Jays could enter the garage through an open doorway nearly 2.3 m^2 in area, two open windows with an area of almost a m^2, low horizontal gaps between the walls and roof on two sides, and perhaps through a few smaller openings. The nest was more than two meters from the nearest entrance and about 2.1 m above the earthen floor. A plank and adjacent metal pipe formed a nearly level sup-

porting area of approximately 324 cm^2 beneath the nest. Conventionally constructed, the nest had a total depth of roughly 7.8 cm, a diameter of 16 cm for its tighter portion, and a central cup about 10 cm in diameter. After departure of the birds the empty nest weighed about 250 grams.

The nest appeared to be difficult to reach for non-human terrestrial predators. Furthermore, it was relatively well protected from the weather; even during heavy downpours no water came through the roof onto the nest.

In searching the literature I found one prior record of unconfined Blue Jays nesting in a building. A. D. DuBois (cited in Bent, *U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, **191:** 37, 1946) observed a nest located "in one of the roof trusses" of a large pavilion with open sides. The congeneric Steller's Jay (*C. stelleri*) has been apparently more commonly found as an inside nester (Bent, *loc. cit.*, p. 67). The variation in nest sites in these species is of particular interest in that it bridges the gap between open-nesting and a condition which in certain respects is equivalent to hole-nesting.

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Analysis of the 1966 and 1967 Returns of Chimney Swifts at Kent, Ohio.—In 1966 a total of 33 banded Chimney Swifts returned to the campus of Kent State University. This number is one less than during the preceding year which maintains a downward trend over the past three years. These had been banded over the following years: 1956 (1), 1957 (4), 1958 (4), 1959 (3), 1960 (1), 1962 (4), 1963 (2), 1964 (5), and 1965 (9). The first date of return was 17 April which is the earliest for the return of Chimney Swifts recorded locally. Two birds returned to the campus on that date in 1966. That night one was found in air shaft G4, (a seven-year-old bird which was one of the last to leave during the preceeding fall), and the other was in air shaft V1 following a day of bright sunshine and a warm southerly breeze. Each successive day brought in additional returns over a period of about two weeks, but during evenings of unseasonably cool weather the number of resident swifts declined. With return of mild weather, the birds soon came back to the campus and occupied their usual air shafts. As far as sex has been determined, 12 are known to be males and 10 to be females.

Eleven pairs nested on the campus and, in addition, there were two threesomes which completed nesting. Thirteen swifts nested in the same air shaft as they did the previous year. Six pairs continued as mates in the same chimney as in 1965. (Two of these pairs acquired an all-season visitor forming a threesome for the season.) Another pair remained mated to each other, but shifted their nesting site from shaft E1 to shaft D1, where the female had nested between 1959-64. One bird returned to nest in shaft D4 where it nested in 1963 and 1964 but not in 1965. Another one continued nesting in its former shaft but with a new mate. Male swift No. 21-194777 (10 years of age) returned with his mate No. 24-167608 to shaft S1 where they had been mates for the past eight years. The male soon disappeared and was subsequently found dead six miles from the campus. The female then moved into shaft Q2 for nesting with a new mate. One pair had been mated in the same shaft G4 since 1962, and another one had nested in shaft M1 since 1961. Eight returns did not nest on the campus, but several of these were possibly immature and several were not captured until after the nesting season began. The last record for the season was noted on 9 October 1966 when a single resident swift was left on the campus.

In 1967 there were only 31 returns which had been banded in the following year-groups: 1957 (4), 1958 (2), 1959 (3), 1960 (1), 1962 (2), 1963 (1), 1964 (4), 1965 (6), and 1966 (8). Nine of these are known to be males, and nine females. The first return to the campus arrived on 14 April which has been the first date of return for the past three years. Four birds spent the night on the campus at that time, but the following day the weather turned cold and rainy and these early birds left immediately. Soon they came back again, and the numbers in general increased over the following month, but for three additional periods the number of resident swifts declined for a few days with the advent of unseasonably cold weather.

Eventually 11 pairs completed nesting in the air shafts of our campus. Two of these pairs had temporary visitors with them for certain evenings. There was