

severe icing did occur on Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) nasal markers during sub-freezing weather, most individuals were able to de-ice the saddles.—ROBERT M. ALISON, *Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch, Whitney Block, Queen's Park Cres., Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W9, Canada*. Received 15 November 1974, accepted 8 April 1975.

**A Blue Jay in captivity for 18 years.**—In midsummer of 1956 Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Selves parked their car in a driveway in Sarnia, Ontario with a window open. When a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) flew into the car they decided to keep it and brought it to their farm home at Hensall, Huron County. They have had the bird there ever since.

On 2 November 1974 I examined the bird. It was in full adult plumage, active, in good health, and frequently gave the typical jay squawking call. The left eye was slightly clouded. Mrs. Selves reported that this condition had appeared about a year earlier and that its sight in that eye now seemed to be subnormal.

Since its capture the jay has been kept in a cage 23 x 13 x 10 inches. It has been given a variety of foods, including canned cat- and dogfood, raw egg, peeled potatoes, biscuits, soda crackers, earthworms, grapes, lettuce, apples, shelled sunflower seeds, flies, and other insects. Water is available ad libitum. When the water level gets low the bird puts solid objects such as bits of food and trash into the water to raise the level to within its reach.

When the bird is given an occasional ant, it picks up the ant in its bill, spreads one wing, and scrapes the ant against its lower surface and then repeats the process with the other wing. The bird then commonly eats the ant. This is a case of 'active' anting as described by Simmons (Feather maintenance. Pp. 278-286 in *A new dictionary of birds* (A. L. Thomson, Ed.), New York, 1964, McGraw-Hill Book Co.) Simmons particularly refers to the Blue Jay's habit of anointing one wing at a time.

Mrs. Selves reports that the bird is adept at mimicking the mewing of cats and the cawing of crows. In the first few years of its captivity the jay was taken from the cage at times to ride around the house on Mrs. Selves' shoulder. When she was shelling peas the bird picked up the peas and tried to put them back into the empty pods. Apart from these releases within the house the bird has lived continuously in the cage for 18 years.

Being caught in 1956 the jay was at least 18 years old by the summer of 1974. Mrs. Selves does not recall any features of the bird when captured that would indicate its age, beyond that when found in the car it could fly well. Having been caught in midsummer it could have been hatched that year.

A captive bird, well fed and sheltered from predators and other adverse features of the environment, can greatly exceed the normal life expectancy of its species in the wild. Middleton (*Bird-Banding*, 45, 206, 1974) studied the ages of 202 wild Blue Jays trapped and banded in Pennsylvania and showed that most of them lived for 6 years or less and a few of them for more than 6 years. One reached the age of 14½, the maximum longevity for a wild individual reported by Kennard (*Bird-Banding*, 46: 66, 1975)—WILLIAM W. JUDD, *Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada*. Received 12 March 1975, accepted 8 April 1975.

**Longevity of the Brown Noddy.**—Despite its abundance and pantropical range, little published information exists on the longevity of the Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). Woodward (*Atoll Research Bull.*, 164: 280, 1972) reported a maximum known survival of 10 years for Brown Noddies banded as adults on Kure Atoll, Hawaii. Brown Noddies on Manana Island, Oahu, Hawaii (*A. s. pileatus*), and the Dry Tortugas, Florida (*A. s. stolidus*), are among the few populations that have been banded over a period long enough to provide quantitative data on longevity. Records of the Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, show that 2,334 Brown Noddies were banded on Manana from 1938 through 1947 under the permits of G. C. Munro, and 246 were banded on the Dry Tortugas from 1936 through 1941 under various permits. After a lapse from 1948 through 1962 on Manana and from 1942 through 1958 on the Dry Tortugas, banding of Brown Noddies was resumed in both colonies with more than 3,000 banded on Manana from 1963 to date and more than 6,500 banded on the Dry Tortugas from 1959 to date. The more recent banding should