
January 1986

Longevity of a Captive Blue Jay

Florida Field Naturalist

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/ffn>

Recommended Citation

Florida Field Naturalist (1986) "Longevity of a Captive Blue Jay," *Florida Field Naturalist*. Vol. 14 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/ffn/vol14/iss1/3>

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Field Naturalist by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

- STEVENSON, H. M. 1960. The nesting season: Florida region. Audubon Field Notes 14: 444-446.
- WESTON, F. M. 1965. A survey of the birdlife of Northwestern Florida. Bull. Tall. Timbers Res. Sta. 5: 1-147.
- WILEY, J. W. 1985. Shiny Cowbird parasitism in two avian communities in Puerto Rico. Condor 87: 165-176.
- WILLIAMS, F. C. 1983. The nesting season: Southern Great Plains region. Amer. Birds 37: 1002-1004.
- WOOLFENDEN, G. E. AND S. A. ROHWER. 1969. Breeding birds in a Florida suburb. Bull. Florida State Mus. 13: 1-83.

Wayne Hoffman and **Glen E. Woolfenden**, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620.

Florida Field Naturalist 14: 18-20, 1986.

Longevity of a captive Blue Jay.—Clapp et al. (1983, J. Field Ornithol. 54: 133) listed the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) longevity record as 18 years-4 months for a recovered banded bird. Here I report on the longevity of a captive Blue Jay.

The nestling Blue Jay was found in Pitman, New Jersey in June 1958. Initially, the nestling was hand fed a mash diet made from milk, oatmeal, corn meal, bran, cut raisins, canned meat dog food, and crushed egg shells. When the jay could feed itself, it also was supplied with water, garden dirt, commercial bird seed and peanuts. During her early years, she occasionally laid infertile eggs. In January 1974 I brought the jay to Florida. As the jay advanced in age, she became blind and crippled and required hand feeding during the last year of her life. She died on 14 September 1984 at the age of 26 years-3 months.

I thank J. A. Rodgers, Jr. and D. S. Maehr for assistance in writing this note.—**Marion G. Coles**, 1809 El Ranch Dr., Sun City Center, Florida 33570.

Florida Field Naturalist 14: 20, 1986.

A Great Egret feeding on bread.—During five winter/spring visits to central Florida since 1971 I was able to study the birds on Lake Eola, Orange County very many times. The birds were tame and closely associated with visitors. Food of various kinds was strewn both to land and water birds, the main ingredients being peanuts and bread material. In April 1981, I made the unusual observation of Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) taking bread from the surface of the lake in competition with other aquatic birds (King 1985, Fla. Field Nat. 13: 9). More recently, on the 16th January 1984, I observed a Great Egret (*Egretta alba*) at Lake Eola feeding along the water's edge. As it came to a small clump of reeds it bent forward to dip its head and long neck into the base of these and surprisingly, on three occasions, came out with small pieces of bread in the tip of its bill. Each time the food was held in this way; and, with neck stretched upward, it remained motionless for some fifteen seconds. Then, with a rapid head jerking movement the bread was swallowed.

I have not encountered the behavior in either Pied-billed Grebes or Great Egrets at Lake Eola, nor in any of the Ardeidae. Nevertheless, it may be of great interest for additional studies to be made where such associations exist, such as on similar lakes in Orange County and elsewhere.—**Bernard King** Gull Cry 9 Park Road, Newlyn, Penzance, Cornwall, England.

Florida Field Naturalist 14: 20, 1986.