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January 1991

## Another Case of Blue Jay Kleptoparasitism

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### Recommended Citation

Clench, Mary H. (1991) "Another Case of Blue Jay Kleptoparasitism," *Florida Field Naturalist*. Vol. 19 : Iss. 4 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/ffn/vol19/iss4/4>

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Fla. Field Nat. 19(4): 109-110, 1991.

## ANOTHER CASE OF BLUE JAY KLEPTOPARASITISM

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Robert Loftin's note on kleptoparasitism in a Florida Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) (1991, Fla. Field Nat. 19: 55) prompts me to report similar behavior in the species from the western edge of its range. Our home in Dickinson, Galveston County, Texas, is situated in mature riparian forest, with large oaks predominating. Blue Jays are abundant and probably the dominant species in the neighborhood. Shortly after we moved there in late 1987, we put up a feeder in the backyard and supplied it with sunflower and mixed seeds. As resident and wintering birds began to visit the food, I noticed on several occasions that a Blue Jay in the dense woodlot next door gave a vocal imitation of a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), which caused birds already on the feeder to fly off; the jay then flew in,

landed on the feeder, and began to eat sunflower seeds. I have paid particular attention to the success of this "ploy" to clear the feeder of competitors and have never heard the jay give a hawk vocalization before approaching the feeder from the woodlot *unless* there were other birds, usually Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) or Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), already feeding there. On hearing the hawk call, the other birds immediately fly up into the tall trees above or into the woodlot's heavy cover about 7 meters away. Red-shouldered Hawks are a common breeding species in the immediate area. In my experience, the hawk call has never failed to clear the feeder well before the jay landed on its perch. If no other birds were at the feeder when a Blue Jay flew in, it did so silently.

I have observed this behavior repeatedly for more than three years and, although the jays are not banded so that I cannot distinguish individuals, because it has occurred so frequently over a number of years, I suspect that more than one jay has learned the effectiveness of this deception. I am also convinced that use of a predator call to frighten other birds away from food is habitual behavior in at least one individual in this Texas jay population. Loftin's report of a similar incident was therefore not isolated or unique to a Florida jay and Hailman's proposed hypothesis (1990, Fla. Field Nat. 18: 81-82) that jays' predator calls may serve "to deceive some third species into believing a raptor is present" is further supported.

Fla. Field Nat. 19(4): 110-116, 1991.

### AN OVERLOOKED EARLY FLORIDA OOLOGIST AND ORNITHOLOGIST, JOSEPH E. GOULD

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Born on St. Simons Island, Georgia on 8 January 1866, Joseph Edward Gould followed a railroading career for most of his life. He died in Norfolk, Virginia, on 3 November 1945. As a young boy growing up on the island, he became keenly interested in birds and began egg collecting. During his early adult life in Ohio and other parts of the midwest and southern states, he added to his egg collection. At the time of his death, his egg collection contained 588 sets from 167 species, mostly from Ohio, Indiana, and coastal Georgia (Johnston in press, 1989). His collection was given to Almon O. English in Roanoke, Virginia, who subsequently gave it to the Charleston (SC) Museum where the collection (in poor condition) is currently being catalogued. Further details of Gould's life are found in Bailey (1945), English (1948), and Johnston (in press, 1989).

Recently, Mrs. Almon O. English gave me Gould's catalog and much correspondence. A review of that material reveals important facts about Gould's activities in Florida. Because Gould was overlooked by Bailey (1925) and unknown to Howell (1932), some notable aspects of his Florida collecting and observations are presented here. It is surprising that Bailey did not mention Gould in his "Birds of Florida" (1925), because he had known Gould since at least 1906 from their field exploits in southeastern Virginia. In fact, all of Gould's egg collecting in Florida preceded the publication of Bailey's book. Although his egg collection contained 81 sets from 33 species in Florida (Table 1), none of them is an exceptional record, but they do confirm breeding of 33 species in the state between 1895 and 1920.

From 1915 to 1921, Gould worked for the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad and lived in Arcadia, Florida. Even as late as 1941, he and his wife, Jessie, periodically returned for short visits to St. Simons Island and Arcadia. His collecting localities were concentrated