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GENERAL NOTES

A Criterion for Young-of-the-Year in the Blue Jay.—It is advantageous to distinguish young-of-the-year from adult birds in late summer and fall, but in species with no definite plumage differences between young and old, it soon becomes difficult, and although one may have a pretty good idea which are which, it is not good enough for the record.

At Mastic, Long Island, I trapped and banded 25 Blue Jays from July 4 to September 7, 1953. There were an adult and young together on July 4, two young on July 5. Though of the opinion that the 21 banded later were all young, I was not sure of the age of any of them.

A Blue Jay's bill is black or blackish, from the outside. They frequently open their mouths when being banded, and I was interested to note that the inside of the bill of one of the young, July 5, was white. Of two on August 8, one had the inside of the bill entirely white, the other white except for a large black blotch on the inside of the upper mandible; one on August 9 (No. 543-70811), white with considerable black. The last one in which it was noted as all white was on August 23; and a bird on September 6 had it white with black blotches.

The thought that white inside of bill, being replaced blotchingly by black, was characteristic of young Blue Jays of-the-year, had been formulated, when it was confirmed by the next Jay trapped, on October 28, at Garden City, Long Island. This had the inside of bill black with a couple of white marks. But it remained to check the hypothesis.

Four individuals taken at Garden City, respectively on February 19, May 8, 21, and June 19, 1954; as well as No. 543-70811 of August 9, 1953 (see above), trapped as a return at Mastic May 16, 1954, had the whole inside of the bill black.

Furthermore, five young birds trapped at Garden City July 2 to 20, had the whole inside of the bill white (bluish white in 4, greyish white in one). Incidentally, the entire mouth farther back was pink, in noticeable contrast with that of the four adults, February 19 to June 19, in which it had been mostly black. Finally, I trapped a young bird in Garden City on July 29 which had the inside of the bill bluish white except for a small lengthwise black spot on that of the upper mandible. But for this bill character I could only have guessed at its age.

My conclusion is that white (or black and white) on the inside of the bill of a Blue Jay is a criterion of a bird-of-the-year which lasts into the fall. It is tangible, not relative, and very easy to see.—J. T. Nichols, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.

Bluebirds Attracted by Peanut Hearts.—These are further observations along the line of the note "Bluebirds Lured to Ground Traps" in *Bird-Banding*, **25**: 112, 1954. The Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) is listed as a permanent resident in this area. No Bluebird has been taken in ground traps by us, but on our home acre 3 have been trapped (and banded) in a 4-cell Potter type trap on feeding trays placed on posts 4 or 5 feet above the ground as follows:

Band No.	Date Banded	Date Retrapped
21-116596 F	Jan. 18, 1953	Feb. 1, 1953 June 27, 1953
21-116872 M	March 23, 1953	—
21-171196 I or F	Oct. 25, 1953	—