

FIELD NOTES

An Unusual Blue Jay Nest: While checking some old Robin nesting sites on June 17, 1965 in the Town of Friendship, Allegany County, New York, I found one of the sites had been taken over by a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). The loosely built but typical jay nest, containing two well-advanced young and one unhatched egg, had been constructed on top of a Robin nest that had been built during the 1964 nesting season. Both were located inside a small shed on a rafter under the roof about ten feet above the ground. The shed, one of several buildings in the dooryard of an old house, had a detached door, thus affording easy access to the inside. Open hay fields surrounded the building complex on all sides for several hundred yards before ending at the edges of deciduous woodland.

Bent (1964: *Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows and Titmice*, Dover, New York, Part 1:37) quotes A. D. Dubois who observed a Blue Jay nest on the roof trusses of an open pavilion at Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua County, New York. He also mentions (*ibid.*, 58, 67) several instances of nesting inside buildings by other members of the same genus. Therefore, while instances of nesting inside buildings are known for the Blue Jay and some of its close relatives, it is apparently an exceedingly rare practice. I find no reference to the fact that Blue Jays have been known to use an old birds nest as a base for their nest.

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A Strange Goose in Jefferson County: An unusual-looking goose was first seen by one of us (Walker) on April 13, 1966 in the flooded area of the lower flats at PRGMA (S of Rt. 12) feeding with Canada Geese. It was the same size as the Canadas and the same colors except that the head, neck and entire breast were white. (see sketch). Several hundred feet away were two Snow Geese and one definite Blue Goose. These were compared with nearby Canadas and seen to be smaller. These also remained slightly apart from the Canadas while the "white-headed" goose mingled. All were observed with a B and L "Zoom 60" telescope at 40× to 50× in good light.

The strange individual was again seen April 16 by each of us independently in the same area. Attempts to locate it after this date were unsuccessful.

