

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*



Coby Klein banding a Blue Jay at Garden City Bird Sanctuary
2012 Photo credit: Rob Alvey



Blue Jay on a fence. Photo credit: birdflight.com

The Blue Jay is a beautiful blue bird that lives in both forests and urban areas as well as in the Garden City Bird Sanctuary. Though often given a bad reputation because of their aggressiveness, they are really intelligent creatures capable of forming tight family bonds with other blue jays.

Description

Size and Shape- Fairly large songbird with a large crest and a rounded tail

Color Pattern- Mostly bright blue on body with black and white patterns on wing, face, and tail; white or gray underbelly

Behavior- One of the more intelligent birds- they socialize behaviorally and vocally and can form tight family bonds. They are usually quiet but are aggressive at their nest site and at bird feeders, where they would chase away other birds

Song- Varied- can make harsh squeals and chirps

Habitat- Live in forests as well as in urban and suburban areas where there is an abundance of oak trees and bird feeders

Range- Year-round in eastern and central part of the US, migrate to southern Canada during breeding season

Diet- A variety- nuts, seeds, grain, insects, and injured vertebrates

Bird Statistics

Scientific name- *Cyanocitta cristata*

Family- Corvidae

Conservation Status- Least concern

Length- 9.8-11.8 in (25-30 cm)

Wingspan- 13.4-16.9 in (34-43 cm)

Weight- 2.5-3.5 oz (7-100 g)

Egg Statistics

Color- Blue or gray with brownish spots

Nest- Cup of grass, twigs, mud, and roots

Clutch size- 2-7 eggs

Number of broods- 1

Length- 1-1.3 in (1.8-2.2 cm)

Width- 0.7-0.9 in (1.7-2.2 cm)

Incubation period- 17-18 days

Nestling period- 17-21 days

Additional Information

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/blue-jay/>

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blue_Jay/id

http://www.wild-birdwatching.com/Blue_Jay.html