of the readers should capture this bird in the future I should like a concise listing of the plumage characteristics. — Don G. Follen, Sr., Arpin, Wis. 54410 (Sent April 14, 1971).

Blue Grosbeak Nest In Wisconsin

My husband and I have a rustic farm in the hills of northern Richland County which we frequently visit and it was here at 3:00 p.m. on August 16, 1970 that I made my discovery. We had spent several hours working in the warm sun and I was relaxing for a while when I noticed a bird’s persistant call. Since I am unable to recognize a bird by its call alone, I was not particularly impressed and would have neglected it entirely except that it seemed obviously disturbed. When another bird began answering the call, I forced myself to my feet, secured my binoculars, and reluctantly checked out the situation. I couldn’t believe my eyes! A male Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulescens* (Linnaeus), was sitting on an old fence post only twenty-five feet in front of me. Even though I had never seen one before he looked exactly as I expected. His body and bill were obviously blue, his wings and tail were somewhat darker, and two brown wingbars were distinctly visible. I was so excited I immediately checked my Peterson field guide to make sure I had made no mistake. Sure enough it was a mail Blue Grosbeak.

It was at this point I remembered hearing two birds. Assuming the other one was his mate, I scanned the area again and found her about ten feet away from the male. The female appeared to be grayer than the one picture in Peterson’s field guide, but she did resemble a cowbird in size and her characteristic grosbeak bill was tinged with blue. Her wingbars were so indistinct they were hardly noticeable.

Even though it seemed late in the season for nesting, the behavior of these two birds was indicative of nest protection so I again scanned the area to see if this was indeed the reason for their behavior. Within a few minutes the female disclosed the location of the nest-site when she flew within several feet of it. The nest was halfway up a six-foot evening primrose plant which was growing a few feet from the driveway by the house. I could see a young bird appearing over the edge of the nest so I moved in closer and found two nestlings ready to fledge. A short while later both young were out of the nest. I located one of them about twenty feet away, but could not find the other one.

When we returned to the farm one week later, the nest was deserted and the male was observed in a hickory tree in the general vicinity of the nest-site. Closer examination of the nest revealed it to be more or less oval in shape, approximately 7 cm wide by 11 cm long by 8 cm deep, and constructed of unidentified dry grasses, small twigs, delicate weeds, and a few leaves. It was not until later that I learned the blue grosbeak does not generally range this far north to breed so I am exceedingly pleased to have witnessed the nesting of these birds in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Janice Jensen
Route 1, Box 325
Jefferson, Wis. 53549