

Eurasian Jay

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(Redirected from European Jay)


The **Eurasian Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*) occurs over a vast region from Western Europe and north-west Africa to the eastern seaboard of Asia and down into south-east Asia. Across its vast range, several very distinct racial forms have evolved to look very different from each other, especially when forms at the extremes of its range are compared.

A member of the widespread jay group, and about the size of the Jackdaw, it inhabits mixed woodland, particularly with oaks, and is an habitual acorn hoarder. In recent years, the bird has begun to migrate into urban areas, possibly as a result of continued erosion of its woodland habitat.

Feeding in both trees and on the ground, it takes a wide range of invertebrates including many pest insects, acorns (oak seeds, which it buries for use during winter), beech mast and other seeds, fruits such as blackberries, rowan berries etc., young birds, mice, small reptiles and small snakes.

It nests in trees or large shrubs laying usually 4–6 eggs that hatch after 16–19 days and are fledged generally after 21–23 days. Both sexes typically feed the young.

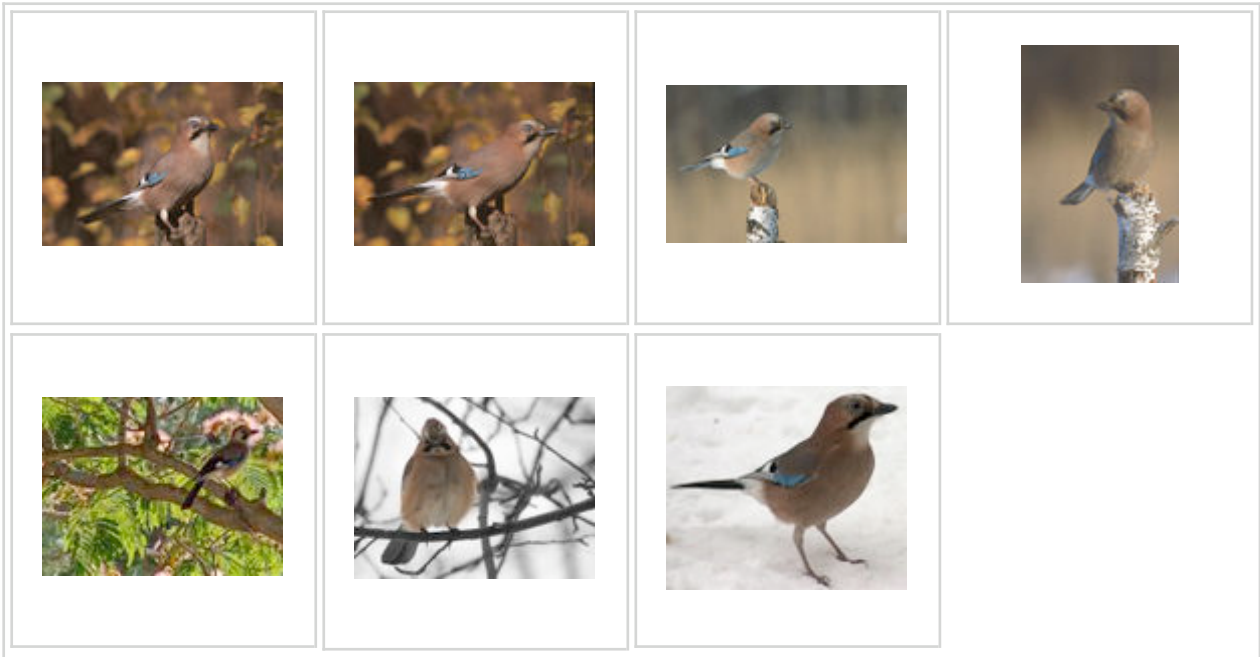
Its usual call is the alarm call which is a harsh, rasping screech and is used upon sighting various predatory animals, but the Jay is well known for its mimicry, often sounding so like a different species that it is virtually impossible to distinguish its true identity unless the Jay is seen. It will even imitate the sound of the bird it is attacking, such as a Tawny Owl, which it does mercilessly if attacking during the day. However, the Jay is a potential prey item for owls at night.

Eurasian Jay [?]
Conservation status: Least concern

Scientific classification
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes
Family: Corvidae
Genus: <i>Garrulus</i>
Species: <i>G. glandarius</i>
Binomial name
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i> Linnaeus, 1758



Wikimedia Commons has media related to:
Garrulus glandarius

Gallery



References

- BirdLife International (2004). *Garrulus glandarius* (<http://www.redlist.org/search/details.php?species=51121>) . 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

External links

- RSPB Information on Jays in the UK (<http://www.rspb.org.uk/birds/guide/j/jay/index.asp>)

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Category: Garrulus

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