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Israel Veterinary Medical Association

P.O.Box 22, Raanana 4310001, Israel
Tel: 09-7419929 • Fax: 09-7431778
E-mail: ivma@zahav.net.il

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Front Cover: **EURASIAN JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius*)

The Eurasian Jay has pinkish brown plumage with a black stripe on each side of a whitish throat, a bright blue panel on the upper wing and a black tail. It is a woodland bird that occurs over a vast region from Western Europe and north-west Africa to the Indian subcontinent and further to the eastern seaboard of Asia and down into Southeast Asia. The Eurasian jay is a common resident of Israeli towns and villages that have parks and green spaces. The most characteristic call of the Eurasian Jay is a harsh, rasping screech that is used upon sighting various predators and as an advertising call. The jay is well known for its mimicry. Its uncanny imitation of a crying child can be so convincing that it sends parents running to check on their children. Eurasian jays normally first breed when two years of age, although they occasionally breed when only one year. Both sexes build the nest. The clutch is 3-6 eggs, which are pale green to pale olive brown and are covered with fine darker speckles, which are incubated by the female, and hatch after 16-19 days. Both parents feed and care for the young, which fledge after 19-23 days. The parents continue to feed the fledglings until they are 6-8 weeks of age. Only a single brood is raised each year.

Mr. Moshe Tachnai generously provided the pictures for the covers of this journal.