



TRIPLE WING CLUB

BLUEBIRD HOUSE INFO

Attracting Bluebirds to watch their nesting and feeding habits can be done by placing birdhouses correctly, and, monitoring those birdhouses to prevent other species from using them.

By providing the right types of food and cover for them to raise their young, you'll make your backyard more inviting and have a greater chance at attracting these beautiful birds.

The following information is provided to help you understand the needs of bluebirds and how you can attract them to, and keep them safe in your backyard.

Numbers decline in Bluebird population is in part, from nest competition with House Sparrows and the European Starling, both introduced species. Loss of habitat is another factor.

With your help, these birds will have a better chance at survival than they once had and you will be able to enjoy them on your property.

DESCRIPTION



Eastern Bluebirds measure 6 1/2 inches in length. The male has bright blue upperparts, reddish breast, and white belly. The female has a buffy throat and breast, grayish-blue head and back with light blue wings and tail.

Bluebirds can be found in rural gardens, orchards, and suburban gardens near open farmland. Their arrival in early spring is a sure sign that winter is on the way out.

BLUE BIRDS NESTING HABITS

The breeding season for these birds begins in April and will go through July, although a couple of weeks on either side is possible. The fact that these birds are cavity nesters makes them ideal candidates for a birdhouse.

In fact, if there was ever a bird in need of our help in providing nest boxes, it is the Eastern Bluebird.

The nest is made of grasses, plant stems, pine needles, and lined with hair, feathers, and fine grasses. The female lays between 3-6 pale blue eggs. The female will incubate the eggs for 13 - 16 days and the young will leave the nest within 15 to 20 days.

The male will often keep feeding the fledglings while the female begins a second nest.

Plan on putting up your new bird house within 5 - 6 feet off the ground. This will allow access for monitoring which should be done.



Keep an eye out for the invasive House Sparrow

House Sparrows will probably be a problem and every attempt should be made to keep them out. Removing nests from House Sparrows, and keeping them from taking over your box is important. These birds will kill Bluebird fledglings so monitoring your bird house can keep this from happening.

The better you control House Sparrows, the better your chances will be of attracting and hosting these birds near you.

WHEN DO I CLEAN OUT BIRDHOUSES?

Bird Houses should be cleaned as soon as the young leave the nest. The young will not return but, within a couple of weeks, the adults may return for to start a second or third brood.

Nest can harbor parasites that could harm the young nestlings. This cleaning after the first nesting doesn't have to be a major cleanup, save that for the end of the season. Just place the removed nest on the ground near the bird house or throw it away, then brush out the inside of the nest box. Now you're ready for more birds.

FEEDING HABITS - WHAT BLUEBIRDS EAT

When it comes to feeding, what Bluebirds eat is a large amounts of insects. Eighty percent of their diet comes from insects during spring and summer. In addition to insects, these birds eat berries and fruits off of small trees and shrubs. You may want to try placing dried fruit and/or chopped peanut kernels on a platform type feeder.

There are other ways to lure these birds, the best of which is to offer them mealworms in a tray feeder, as well as proper placement of feeder near locations of insect populations. Close to water sources, and pollentating plants is also a great idea for food sources.

Its best to keep the bird house at least 100 yrds from feeders as the constant action around by other birds and wildlife scares birds from nesting and rasing fledglings.

Thank you for your support of Triple Wing Club and our mission, if you have any questions about your new bird house email: welborndesign@gmail.com

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