

Interesting Facts

- It is a song bird found through out Minnesota.
- Bluebirds are a symbol of happiness.
- Sighting of bluebirds is known as an early sign of spring.
- Life inside the nesting boxes is very active.
- To attract the female bluebirds, the males perform a nesting demonstration to attract the females.
- There are three different colors present on the eastern bluebirds: blue, white, and red.



Our Gold Award Project Senior Girl Scout Troop 434 Elgin, Texas

As seniors in High School we had the opportunity to choose a service project to help better the community. We chose to rebuild, refurbish and add to the existing Eastern Bluebird Boxes at Granger Lake. This project was a very rewarding experience for each and every one of us. I hope that you enjoy the boxes we built and the brochures we have put together for you and happy bluebird watching!

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Eastern Bluebirds and their habitats at Granger Lake



All About Bluebirds

The Eastern Bluebirds range in size from 6-8 inches. They have a wingspan of about 10-13 inches and they weight about 28-32 grams.

Physical Features:

- Medium sized song bird
- Large round head
- Wings and tail are blue
- Chest is a reddish orange
- They have a short tail
- Bill is black and short

Sex Differences:

- The male bluebird is a dark blue with a bright reddish chest.
- The female is a grayish blue with a duller reddish chest.

These birds eat a variety of insects and small fruits. They hunt from high perches and drop to the ground to catch their prey.

Building a Nesting Box

- The best wood for making blue bird boxes is cedar about $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick.
- Do not use pressure treated wood because it includes toxic compounds.
- Make the entrance hole about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
- The floors should be at least 5x5 inches. You can make them a little bigger to accommodate bigger bluebirds if you wish.
- It is imperative that all bluebird nesting boxes open readily from the top, side, or front to facilitate box monitoring and cleaning
- Natural wood color is acceptable. Do not paint the wood, unless it is a natural wood color. There is no need to paint the boxes.
- Drainage holes must be provided in the box bottom to allow any rain entering the box to drain from the box and to provide air circulation to keep nesting material dry. It must also be water tight.
- Boxes should be mounted at least 5 feet off of the ground to minimize the threat of predators.
- Perches should never be used on any bluebird boxes. By using them it makes it easier for other birds to inhabit the boxes.
- The front wall below the entrance hole should have a rough surface to enable the chicks to climb to the entry hole.