

25 Bluebird Facts

1. The Eastern Bluebird is the New York State Bird
2. Bluebirds eat insects. They capture and eat them mostly on the ground, often while the bug is in the larva stage. That's why they are a farmer's favorite bird!
3. Bluebirds are territorial. The male Bluebird keeps all other Bluebirds off his territory.
4. The male Bluebird finds a nesting cavity in the spring.
5. The male attracts the female to a nest site and the female Bluebird builds her first nest during the first two weeks of April.
6. When a baby Bluebird leaves the nest, it is called a "fledgling". Fledglings are able to fly about 18 days after they hatch
7. When the mother Bluebird builds a second nest, the father Bluebird continues to take care of the young that have fledged.
8. Nest sites used to be old wooden fence posts, holes in dead trees or in a hedgerow.
9. A Bluebird's nest is made of weeds and grass.
10. Larger fields and fewer hedgerows have led to a shortage of nest cavities. This has contributed to shortage of Bluebirds in the East.
11. Pesticides poison the insects that the Bluebirds eat.
12. Wet, cold springs can be very harmful to the survival of young Bluebirds
13. A blowfly (parasite), can harm baby Bluebirds.
14. Predators are a problem. Bluebird enemies include raccoons, domestic cats, and snakes.
15. Starlings, English Sparrows, and House Wrens compete with Bluebirds for nesting sites and they chase Bluebirds from their homes.
16. If you put two nest boxes next to each other, you MAY get a family of Bluebirds in one and a family of Tree Swallows in the other. They will nest next to each other but not next to their own species.
17. Bluebirds do not desert their young after people come in contact with them. Be sure you check on your Bluebirds!
18. Your Bluebird nest box should be 5-6 feet off the ground.
19. Bluebird lay 3-5 pale blue eggs.
20. The mother Bluebird incubates her eggs to keep them warm.
21. Bluebird eggs hatch in 14-15 days.
22. Adult bluebirds may have 2-3 nests per year.
23. Bluebird babies are fed insects by their parents
24. The bluebird family joins a flock and migrates south during the fall.
25. To help Bluebirds, you can build a nest box.

Go to <http://ccesaratoga.org/4-h/build-your-own-bluebird-nest-box>