

Interesting Facts

- Offering plenty of potential nesting locations in an open area is key to attracting Bluebirds to your yard. So, if your yard is heavily wooded, you'll enjoy many other nesting songbirds, but probably not Bluebirds.
- The female will lay 4 to 5 light blue eggs that will take 13 to 15 days to hatch.
- The male brings food to his mate and the young during the critical first few days of feeding.
- When hunting, Bluebirds act like tiny hawks, with a slumped stance, waiting patiently for an insect or beetle to show itself - and then they pounce!
- Bluebirds are trainable creatures! Try whistling, or calling in another way, when you refill their feeder. They will learn to correlate that sound with food.



The More You Know

Bluebirds model what "family" really means. Their young will fledge within 15 to 20 days from hatching, and even though the fledglings can find their own food at about 2 weeks old, the parents keep feeding them. Some of the newly independent youngsters from the first brood are often seen bringing food to their new siblings. This can continue into the fall, and at times they stay together until the following spring.

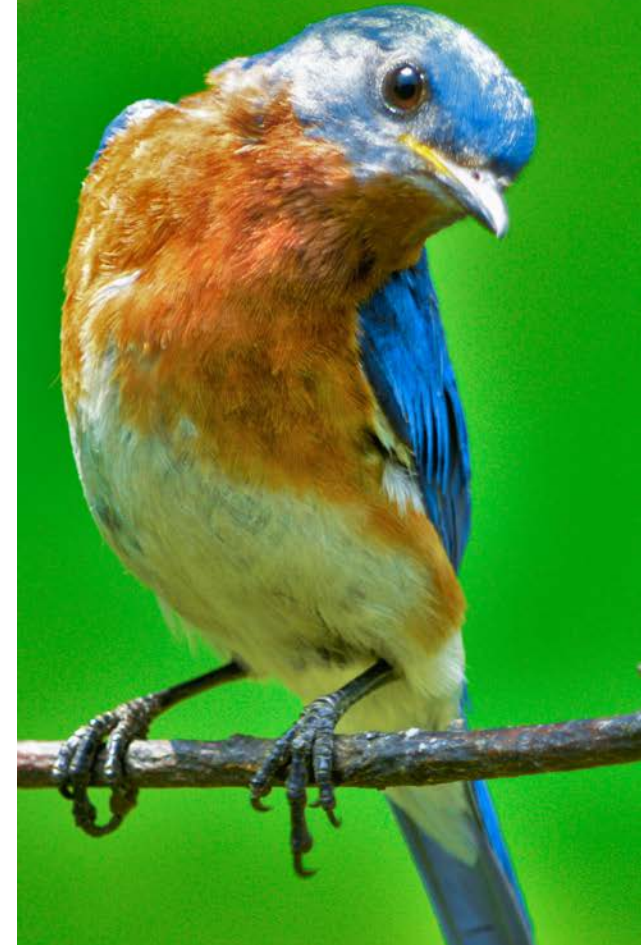
What a great example of the bond and love of a family!



Want To Know More?

Visit www.SongbirdEssentials.com for information on Bluebirds and more!

Songbird Essentials' Tips for Attracting Bluebirds



About Bluebirds

"Somewhere over the rainbow, Bluebirds fly!" This lyric helped to immortalize the beautiful Bluebird. Since early colonial times people have loved these birds because of their bright blue color and beauty, their feeding in open areas around houses and farms, and their endearing habit of readily nesting in man-made boxes.

In the U.S., there are three different types of Bluebirds. By far the most famous, the Eastern Bluebird is present east of the Rockies. Across the western one-third of the U.S., you will find Mountain Bluebirds and Western Bluebirds.



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Food & Feeders

A Bluebird's primary diet is insects and fruit. A great way to attract and help them is to garden native plants like American Bittersweet.

Feeding mealworms is another effective way to attract Bluebirds. At 50.4% protein, they are an excellent nutrition source. You can start feeding them in a cup or pan. However, because many birds like them, they will eat you out of house and home. Most people will graduate to a Bluebird feeder to prevent this.

In a Bluebird feeder, the bird must go through an entrance hole to find the worms, and few will do so - aside from Bluebirds.

A great trick is to place your mealworm feeder about 20 feet in front of the Bluebird house until they get used to using it. You may then incrementally move it until you can more easily view them.

Note: You might spend weeks trying different presentations of food before Bluebirds learn to dine regularly. *But, the results will be worth it!*



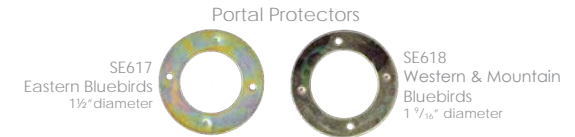
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Cup Feeder BE174

Nesting & Houses

When searching for houses your Bluebirds can nest in, security should be top of mind. Squirrels and predator birds can easily widen the entrance hole of many wooden houses. Offering a house with a reinforced entrance prevents this from happening. For houses lacking this built-in protection, install a portal protector. Made of steel, they will outlast any predator's attempts and keep the young safely out of harms way.



The best houses include those with raised, mesh floors to help protect the young from Blowflies - nasty parasites that feed on the chicks. For houses without, lift kits can be purchased separately. Hinged doors that open on the sides are also a great feature as they allow you to monitor the nest without the danger of chicks falling out.

Mounting the house on a tall pole with a baffle beneath is a great way to keep chicks out of harms way. Attach the pole to the back of the house, and place the baffle directly under the house for snake, raccoon, and cat control.



SESCS3004RW - includes portal protector and nest lift

Baffle SESQR87

Nest lift (SE6015) also available for separate purchase.



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