

Bluebirds



The Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* is native to Bermuda - the only location outside North America where this species breeds. Before human settlement in 1609, forest growth dominated the landscape. Bluebirds nested in rot cavities in the abundant, mature cedars and even in cliff holes. They could be seen flying across our woodlands in flocks of fifty or more. Since 1950, a combination of factors has caused a severe decline in this population.

Threats to Bluebirds

- Loss of nesting habitat when the cedar forest was wiped out by a scale insect in the 1950s
- Competition for food and nesting cavities from the introduced House Sparrows, Starlings and Kiskadees
- Loss of open space to development
- Increasing numbers of roaming cats which attack fledgling Bluebirds
- Poison from eating insects contaminated by pesticide sprays

Housing Crisis

With the continual loss of critical habitat, the Bluebird's breeding success and survival in Bermuda is now totally dependent on artificial nest boxes and human help.

For information on how you can help:
www.audubon.bm
www.bermudabluebirdsociety.com

Bluebird Boxes Help!

Even though the Bluebird population has greatly decreased, the future can still be promising. The most important step we can take to help bring back the Bluebird is to provide nesting sites by putting up Bluebird boxes or starting a Bluebird trail.

A Bluebird trail is a series of Bluebird boxes placed along a prescribed route. In areas where nesting boxes have been put up in suitable habitat, Bluebird populations are increasing.



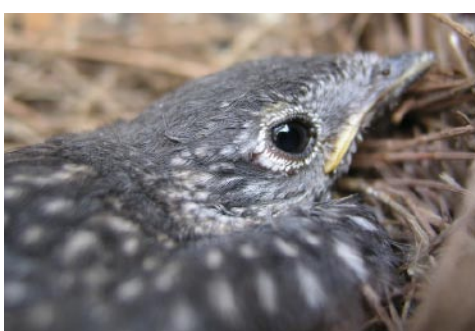
Bluebird eggs in a nest



Hungry chicks await food



Chicks in nest



Fledgling



Adult male



Adult female

