



Bluebirds in Bermuda

30c



EASTERN BLUEBIRD



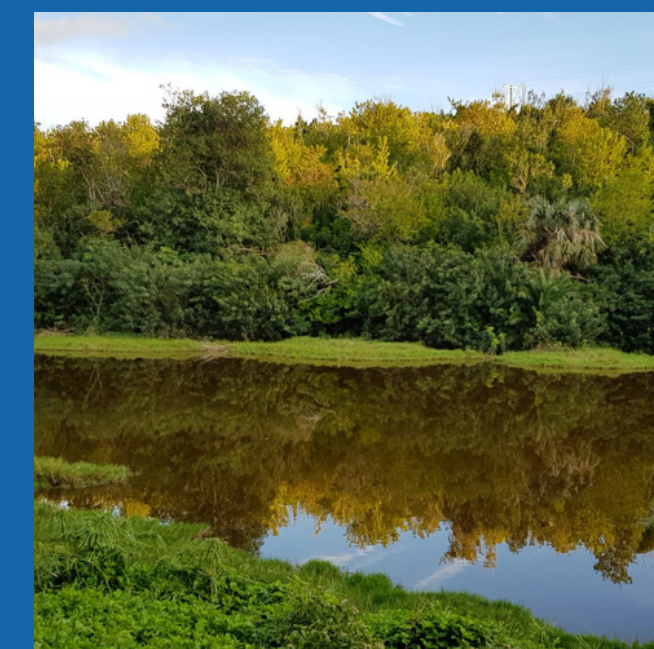
BERMUDA¹



Bermuda Audubon Society

Mission

To conserve Bermuda's special
bird life and habitats for the
benefit of all.





70 Years of Bermuda Audubon Society 1954-2024



Join us!

Bermuda Audubon Society 70th Anniversary Dinner

May 11th 2024 at Cafe Lido

Come on your own or put together a table of friends for fine food and fun.

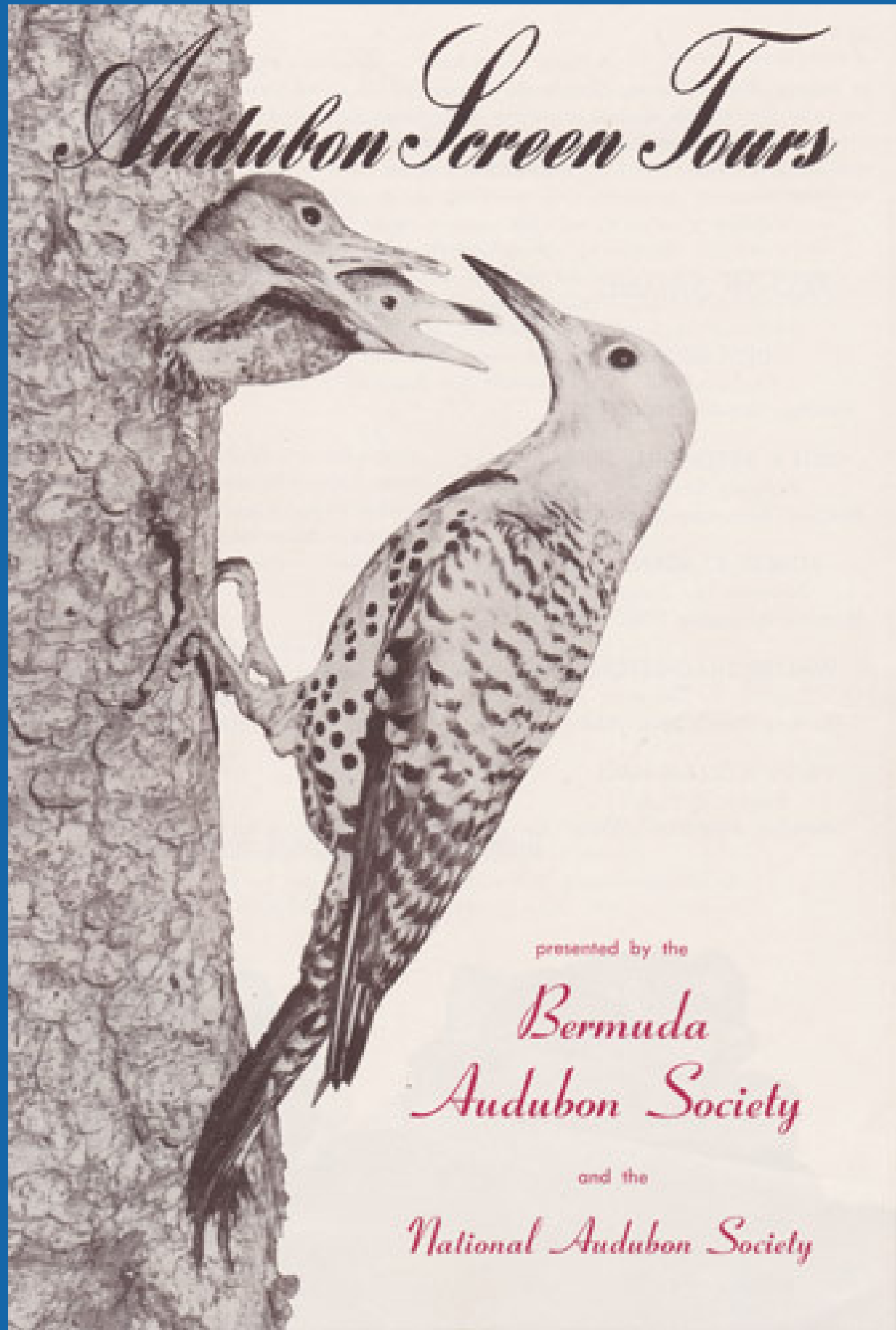
**We are planning a special tribute to David Wingate and we know
he would want YOU to be there.**

Dress Smart Casual

\$150 per person

Purchase your tickets today

6:00 PM Cocktail Hour (Welcome Drink and Cash Bar) 7:00 PM Dinner Raffle Tickets \$5 - cash only Silent Auction



Eastern Bluebird - *Sialis sialis*



**“The Bluebird carries the sky on its back
and the earth on its breast”**



Call



Song





Habitat



Food



Nesting



Behavior

Habitat: Open country around trees. Found around agricultural fields, golf courses, parks, backyards, and cemeteries.

Food: Mostly insects, wild fruit and berries. Occasionally, larger prey items such as lizards and tree frogs.

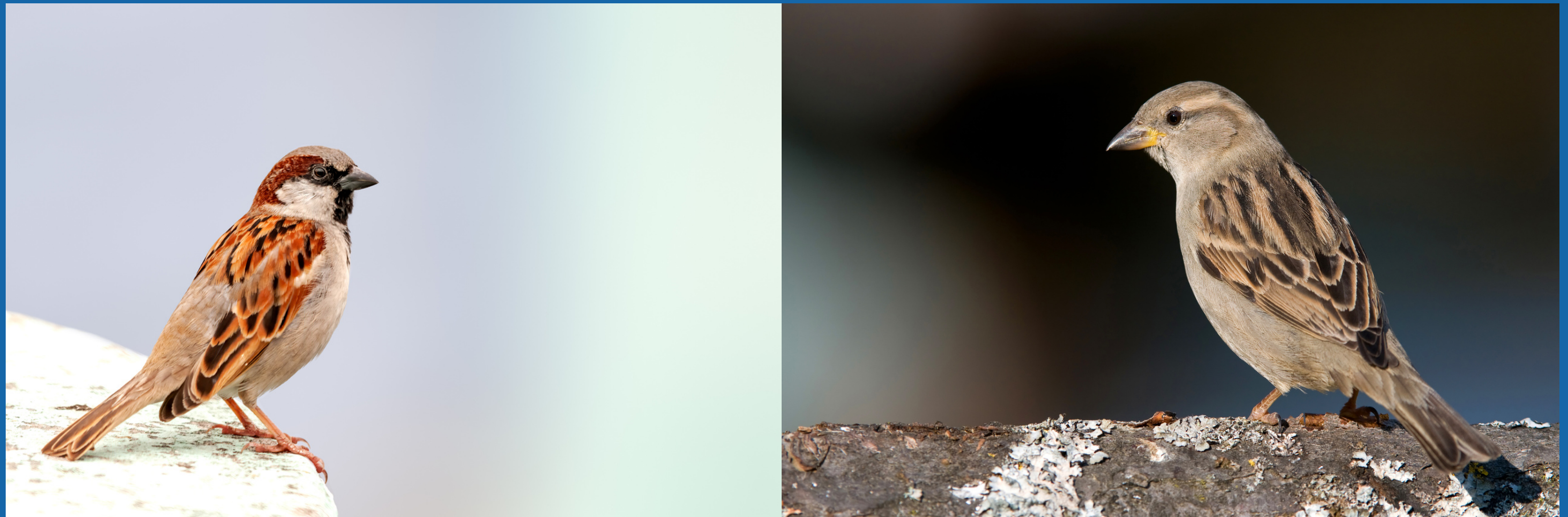
Nest: Cavity nesters. Almost entirely dependent on man-made nest boxes.

Behavior: Typically perches on wires, fence posts or branches. Swoops to ground to catch prey but may occasionally catch insects in mid-air.





1870s - Introduction of House Sparrow



1940s - Cedar Scale Imported



1957 - Introduction of the Great Kiskadee ...

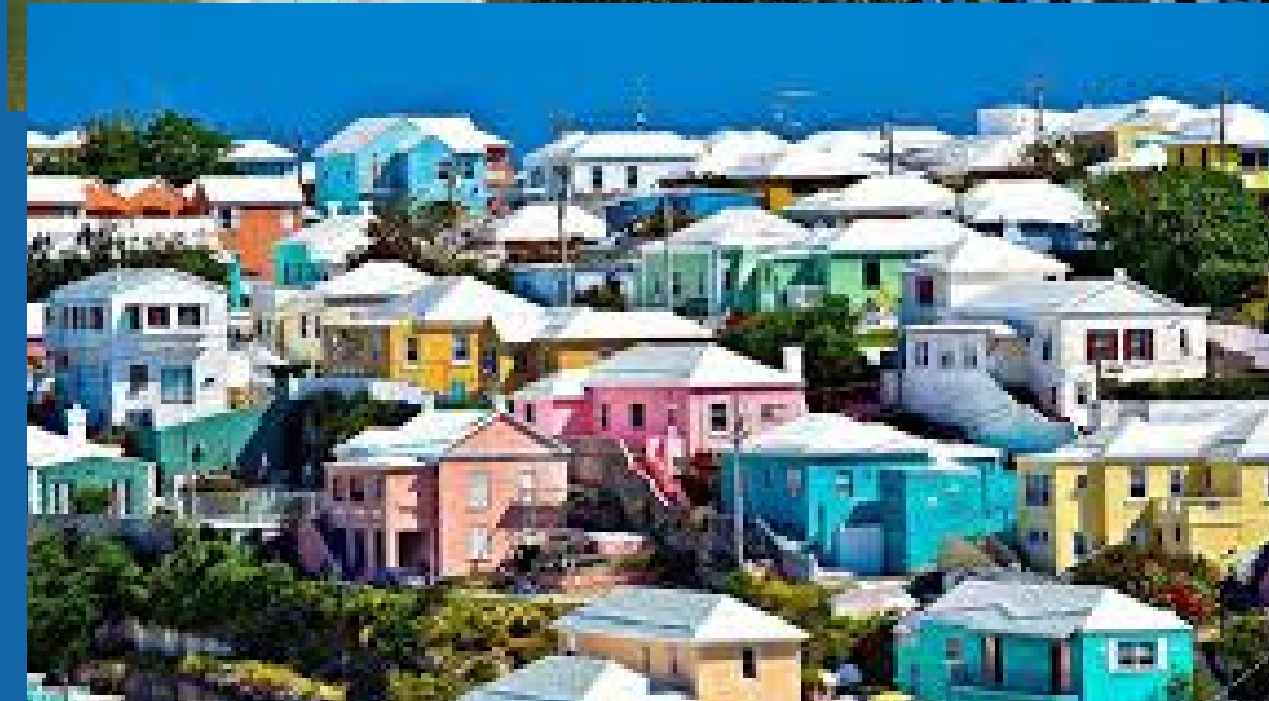
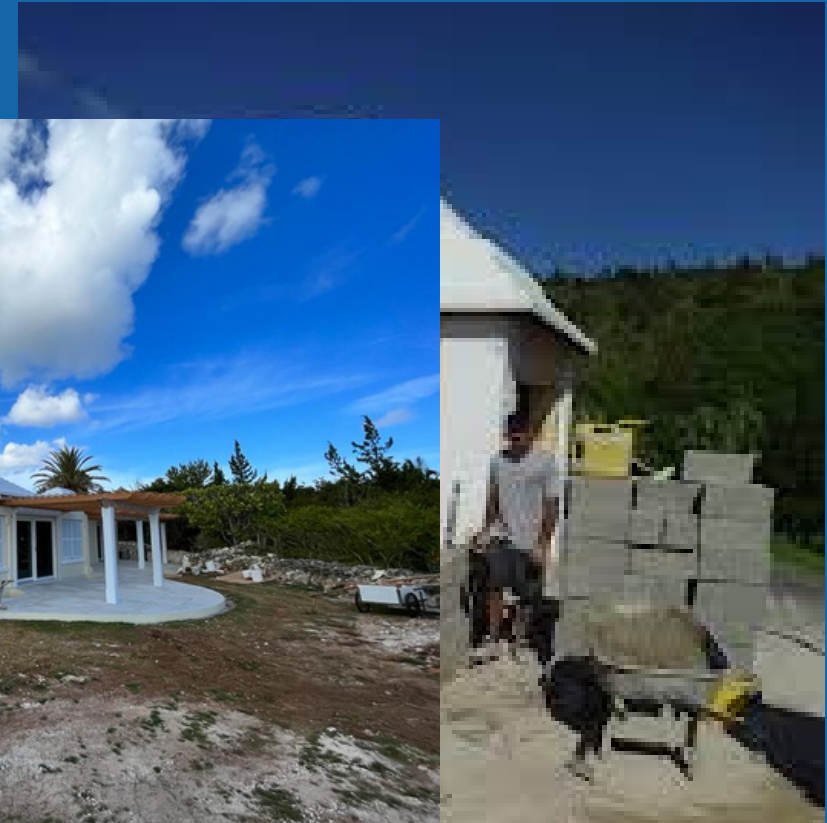
1960's - Arrival of European Starling



1960s - Liberal Use of Pesticides



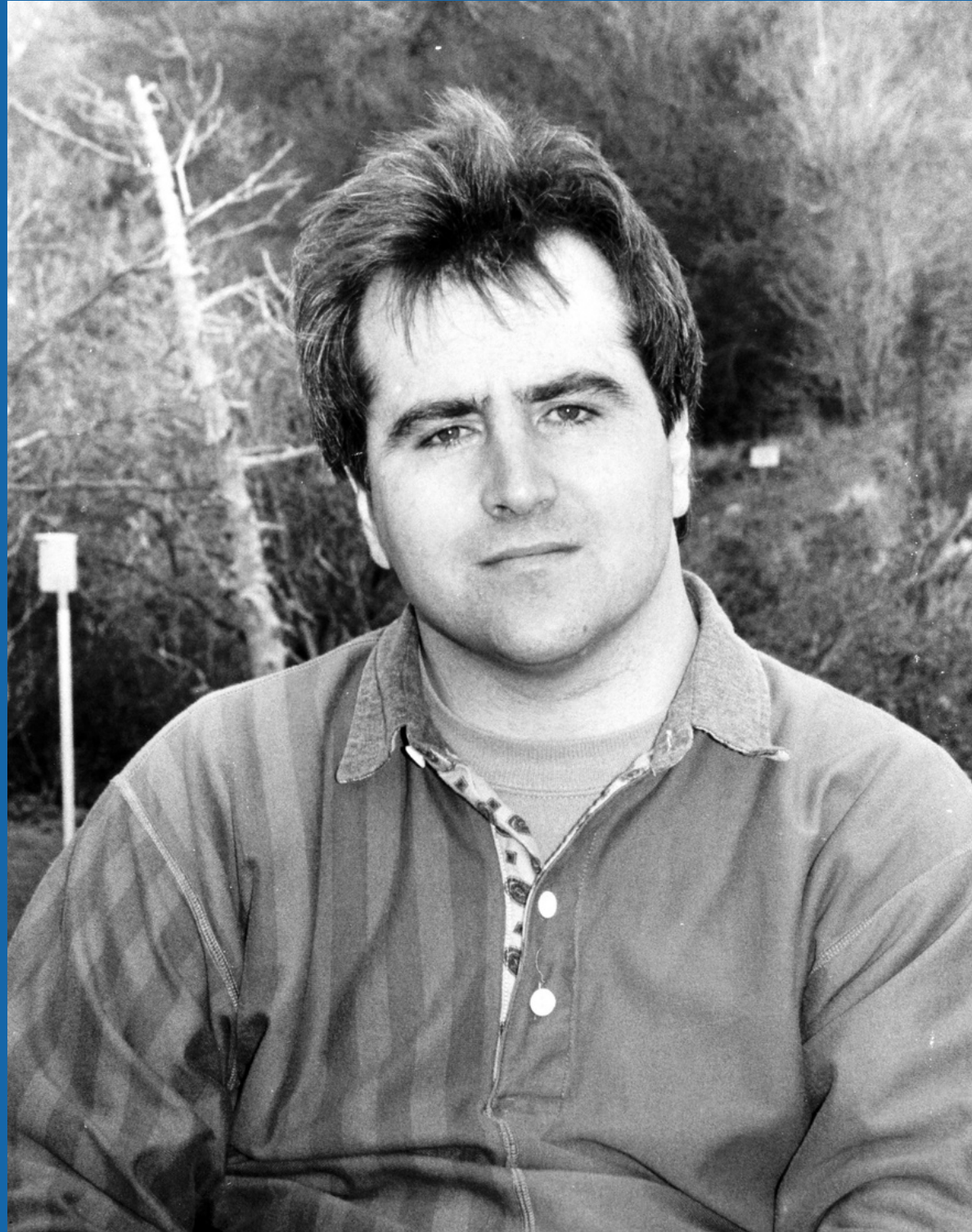
1970s - Period of Rapid Development



Bluebird Nest Boxes



Bluebird Heroes



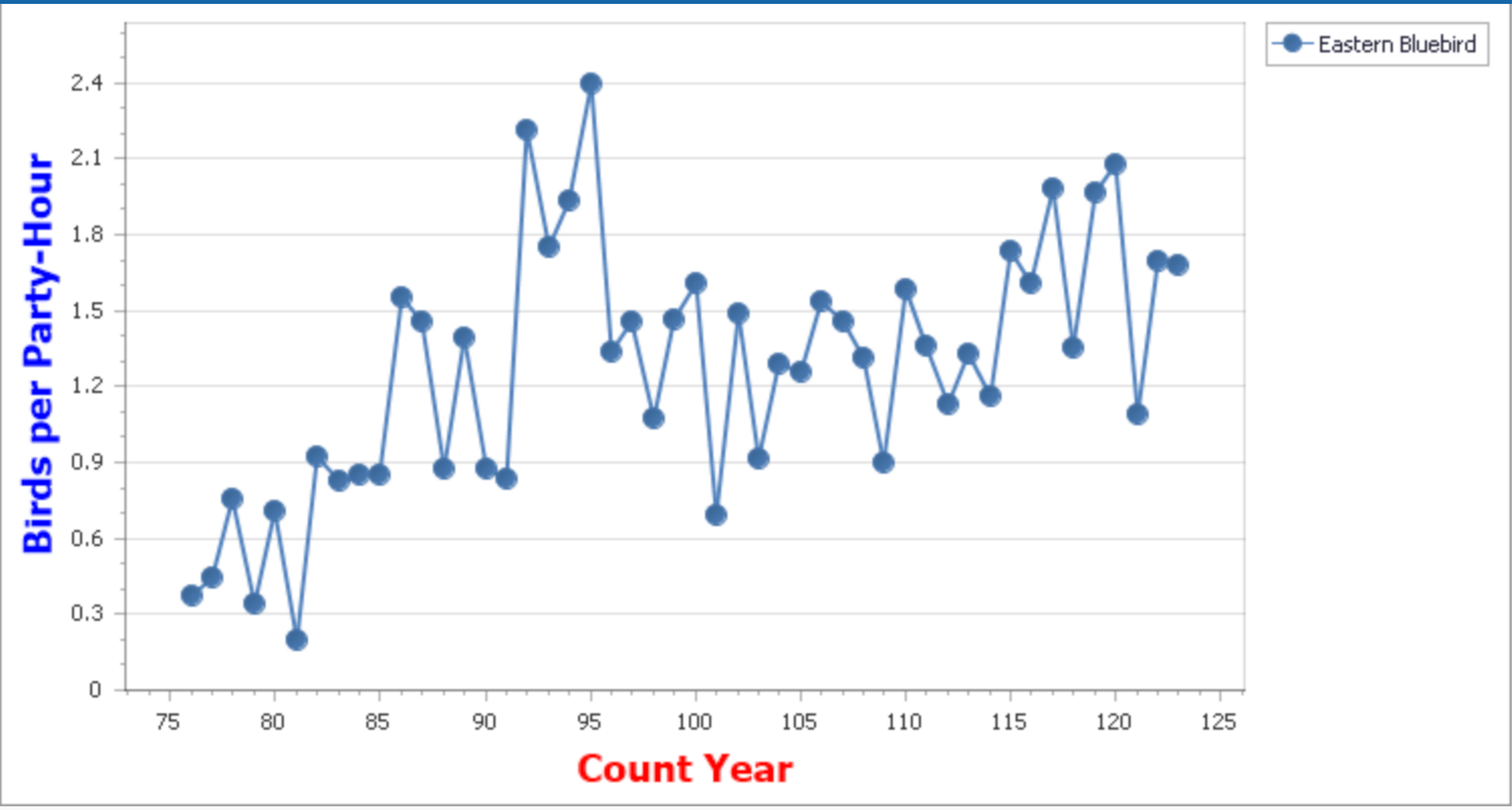
Tommy Outerbridge



Stuart Smith



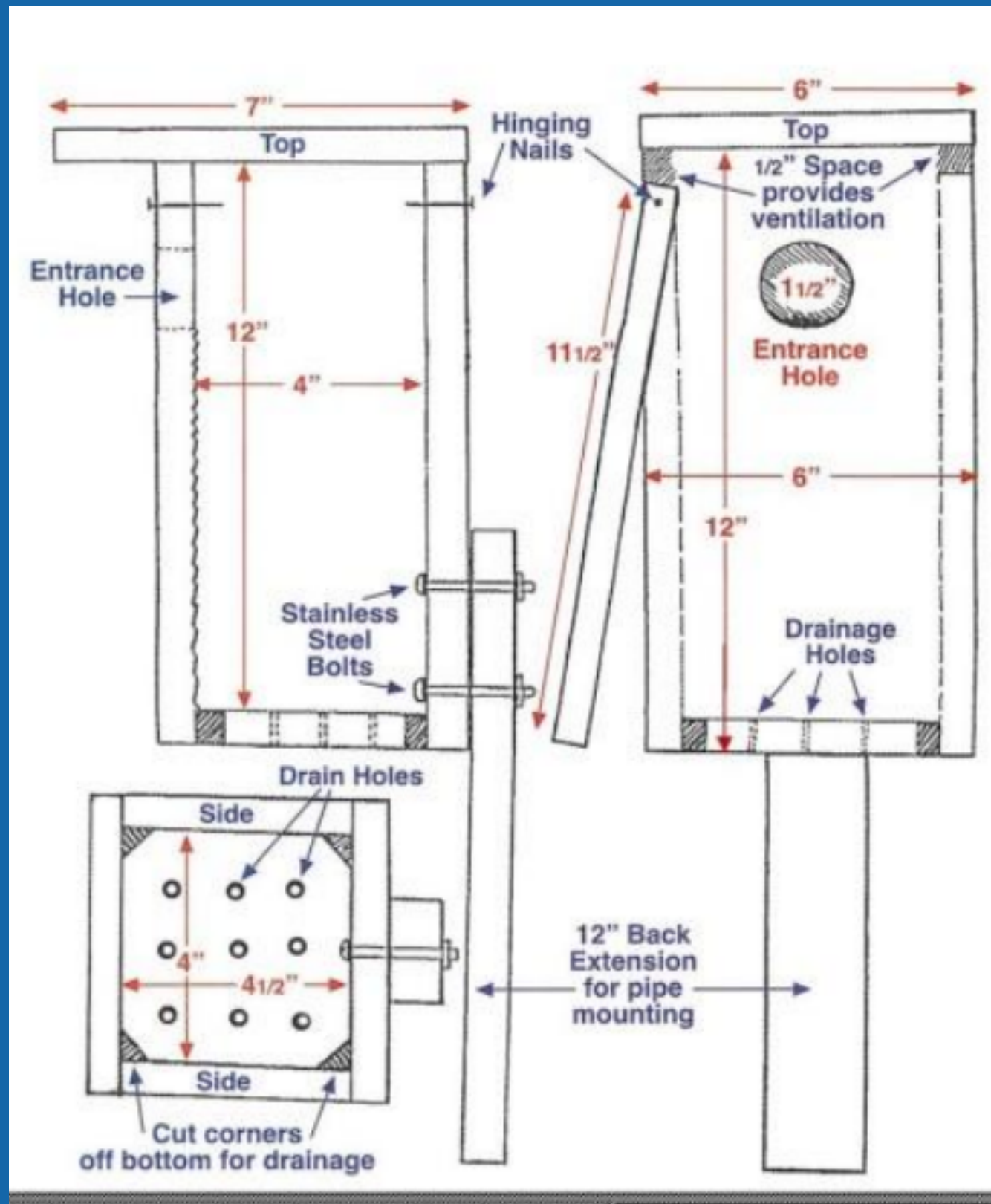
26 Locations 190 Boxes



Types of Nest Boxes



Features of Nest Box



Exactly 1.5 inch opening

NO perch

Roof with overhang for shade

Ventilation spaces beneath roof

4 inch square base

Drainage holes in base

8 inch deep

Stairs below opening

Hinge to open box

Unpainted or pale pastel colours

Location of Nest Box



5 feet off the ground

Open grassy field

Away from overhanging trees

Mount on free standing pole

In vicinity of suitable perch sites

Consider wind direction

Avoid Pesticide Use

Bermuda Bluebird Society can help

Bluebird Development



Time to GO!!





Timeline

Nest Building	4-5 days
Egg Laying	1 per day, 4-6 eggs
Egg Incubation	12-14 days
Stop Opening Box	12-14 days
Time to Fledge	15-18 days
Feeding by Parents	21 days

Nest Box Management



Once per week once box is up
Twice per week after 1st egg

Remove Sparrow Nests

Remove Broken Eggs or Dead Chicks

Observe for Mites

Observe Health of Chicks

Record Progress



Nest Box Monitoring

Nest check data sheet

Use this form to describe your nest site and to record data from each visit. Use a separate form for each nest monitored and each new nesting attempt. See back for explanations of codes and fields. When finished, please enter completed forms online at: www.nestwatch.org.

Year _____ Species _____

1. NEST SITE LOCATION	2. DESCRIPTION (see key on back)
Nest site name _____	Nest is located (circle one) IN ON UNDER Nesting substrate _____
Address: Nearest street address OR _____	Cavity orientation (circle one) N, S, E, W, NE, SE, NW, SW Cavity opening width _____ <input type="checkbox"/> in. or <input type="checkbox"/> cm
Latitude (decimal degrees; ex 47.67932) N _____	Predator guard <input type="checkbox"/> None or <input type="checkbox"/> Type: _____ Habitat within 1 arm length _____ Human modified description _____
Longitude (decimal degrees; ex -76.45448) W _____	Habitat within 1 football field length _____ Human modified description _____ Height above ground _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ft. or <input type="checkbox"/> m

3. BREEDING DATA If eggs or young are present but not countable, enter "u" for unknown.

	DATE Month / Day (1-12) / (1-31)	HOST SPECIES			STATUS & ACTIVITY CODES				COWBIRD ACTIVITY			MORE INFO	
		Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young	Nest Status	Adult Status	Young Status	Mgmt. Activity	Eggs	Live Young	Dead Young	Obs. Initials	Notes (or mark X for notes below)
Ex.	05/06	1	0	0	on	aa	no	no	0	0	0	BB	X
1	/												
2	/												
3	/												
4	/												
5	/												
6	/												
7	/												
8	/												
9	/												
10	/												

4. NESTING ATTEMPT SUMMARY Fill in information for HOST SPECIES TOTALS below after the nesting attempt is complete.


IMPORTANT DATES		HOST SPECIES TOTALS				
First Egg Date	_____	Visits to nest	Clutch Size	Unhatched Eggs	Live Young	Fledglings
Hatch Date	_____					
Fledge Date	_____					

NEST FATE:
NOTES:

Please enter data online at www.NestWatch.org


NestWatch


FEATURED CONTENT


 **All About Birdhouses**
Construction plans, tips and more!

 **Nest and Egg ID**
Identification made easy!

 **NestWatch Blog**
Read about the latest research and other happenings.

 **Download the App**
Find it on Google Play or the App Store!

 **Scientific Impact**
Research requests, publications and more!

 NestWatch is a nationwide nest-monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds. Participating in NestWatch is easy and anyone can do it.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- 1 Take the online quiz to get certified
- 2 Find nests
- 3 Record data
- 4 Submit online or with the mobile app

Let's start monitoring nests! →



See the *Eastern Bluebird* nest plan →

Photo © Patricia Ferguson

Build a nest box or nest structure for one of these birds



What to do about Sparrows

Passive

Placement away from dense houses and buildings

Discourage Sparrows in Area - No feeders

Set up box at appropriate time

Alternative Nest Box Designs - Gilbertson

Alternative Nest Box Heights

Active

Monitor Regularly and Remove Nests and Remove

Nests and Remove Nests and Remove Nests

Sparrow Spooker after first egg is laid

Monofilament Line near opening

Sparrow Traps

Other Threats



More Threats



Who to call for help

Bird Emergencies
BAMZ 293-2727 #999

Lynn Thorne 799-8888

Other Info and Advice
Bermuda Bluebird Society
777-9856 smitty@ibl.bm

Bermuda Audubon Society
735-0441 info@audubon.bm

We Need Your Help!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

- organizing outreach and promotional materials for bluebirds
- bluebird education in schools
- bluebird nest box building
- communicating with and connecting bluebird box trail monitors

LOVE BLUEBIRDS?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HELP

Contact us at
info@audubon.bm
to learn more



Future Bluebird Heroes



We Need Your Help!



Donate:

Bermuda Bluebird Society
Bermuda Audubon Society
Buy Back Bermuda

We Need Your Help!

Protect Your Own Open Spaces

Create nature friendly habitat around your home

Think twice before you develop

Make arrangements for long term habitat protection

Donate to Buy Back Bermuda, BAS or BNT

Designate your property as a Protected Conservation Area

Support Advocacy for habitat protection

Support Research

Thank You

Photographs: Richard Brewer, Andrea Webb, Tim White, Andrew Dobson, LeShun Smith, Miguel Mejias, NABS and others I have missed.

Bluebird Song: Neal Morris

Christmas Bird Count Data: National Audubon Society

Stuart Smith and his team of Bluebird Monitors

Jennifer Gray and her team of Bluebird Box Builders



























