

Build your own bluebird nesting box

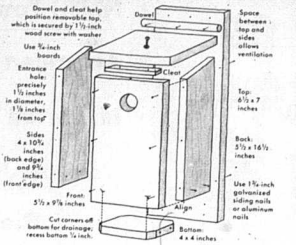
"How readily the bluebirds become our friends and neighbors when we offer them their suitable nesting retreats," wrote 19th-century naturalist John Burroughs. His observations seem even more relevant today as aggressive house sparrows and starlings encroach on bluebird nesting places, and men with his disdain for tree stumps and dead branches saw them down.

Thus pressed, bluebirds take quickly to boxes, such as this large one (right). Its extra depth protects against raccoons and other marauders. Where predators don't threaten, shallower boxes suffice (diagram below).

In the past five years nearly 1,000 bluebirds were raised in 85 boxes by Dr. Lawrence Zeleny, who reports on the embattled bluebird in the National Geographic.



By Michael L. Smith © National Geographic



Nesting boxes may mean hope for the threatened bluebird

By Donald J. Fredericks
National Geographic News
WASHINGTON — The tunnel bluebird once again includes a song of hope in its repertoire.

Warbling a cheerful melody hasn't been easy for the faded "beater" of happiness. Once fluttering close to extinction, the birds are staging a comeback thanks to a series of nesting box trails in the United States and Canada.

"The eastern bluebird — now so scarce that most people under 30 have never seen one — surely is one of the loveliest and most appealing of North American birds," writes Dr. Lawrence Zeleny in the National Geographic. "Its extinction remains a real possibility, but a determined rescue campaign has been mounted in the United States and Canada."

Numbers Have Dropped
Since returning in 1968 as an agricultural biochemist, Dr. Zeleny has devoted all his efforts to the nationwide effort to save the bluebird.

During the past forty years, the numbers of the eastern bluebird (Sialia sialis) may have plummeted as much as 90 per cent. The mountain bluebird in the Rocky Mountain regions and the western bluebird have suffered less, but gradually they are succumbing to the same pressures.

Two rival birds, the starling and the house sparrow, have contributed to the catastrophe. These aggressive intruders like to nest in the same natural or man-made enclosures required by the milder-mannered bluebirds.

People, too, have sped the decline. In city and countryside, dead trees with cavities that once provided bluebird nesting sites have been cut down and hauled away.

Old wooden posts where bluebirds nested in every state except Hawaii, and in every Canadian province except Newfoundland. The birds have always been an asset to farmers and gardeners. Most of the year their diet consists almost entirely of such insect pests as crop-raaging grasshoppers and cutworms.

A trail may consist of any number of nesting boxes, usually placed a hundred yards or more apart. The generous spacing prevents fighting among the highly territorial birds.

Says Dr. Zeleny: "The 40 boxes of our Beltsville, Maryland, bluebird trail have yielded hundreds of healthy fledglings, dramatic evidence that the most practical way to help these straggling birds is to supply them abundantly with nesting boxes."

In the United States most bluebird trails lie east of the Mississippi River. Canada boasts the world's longest bluebird trail. Threading its way through Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the string of nesting boxes covers a distance of about 2,000 miles.

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Newsprint recycled into cellulose insulation

FRANKFORT — State employees in five major office buildings here are participating in a project aimed at helping low-income and elderly Kentuckians this winter.

"Project Paper Chase," a project which newsprint is recycled into cellulose insulation.

Paper collected in the buildings will be recycled to insulate homes of needy families in 34 Kentucky counties — including Nicholas. The statewide newspaper drive has the endorsement of Gov. Julian Carroll and is a project of the Kentucky Association of Community Action Agencies.

Large white containers and a simulated newspaper, Commonwealth Courier, designate the pick-up points in the buildings.

The 34 counties where families will benefit include Nicholas as Ballard, Bullitt, Calloway, Carlisle, Carroll, Fulton, Garrard, Graves, Grayson, Hardin, Harrison, Hart, Henry, Hickman, Laurel, Lincoln, Marshall, McCreckin, Meade, Metcalfe, Morgan, Montgomery, Oldham, Owen, Rockcastle, Rowan, Shelby, Spencer and Trimble counties.



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1977
Kentucky TOURISM INDUSTRY
\$1,247,000,000

Tourism increases 20 per cent

Kentucky's tourism industry registered a 20 per cent increase in receipts in 1972. Gov. Julian Carroll has announced. The increase puts the state's travel industry well over the record \$1 billion mark reached the previous year.

A report commissioned by the state Department of Public Information shows that approximately 45 million tourists spent \$1,247,000,000 in 1972. The increase puts the state's travel industry well over the record \$1 billion mark reached the previous year.

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Stairing Compound .89
Caulking Gun \$1.89
Caulking Tubes .76

14 - THE CARLEISLE (KY.) MERCURY, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1973-11

Court news

from Nicholas County

District Court
Eugene Hines, Route 2, failure to maintain insurance, through insurance policies on other vehicles. Dismissed. Original vehicle now inoperable.

William Isaac Hunt, Route 4, speeding (71 in 50 mile zone), Amended to \$175.00. Fined guilty. Fined \$4, costs \$27.50.

Robert Spaulding, 128 Main St., public intoxication. Fined guilty. Fined \$25, costs \$27.50. Had five days jail credit, over \$27.50 to be paid March 14.

Ernest Russell Marshall, Pickert St., public intoxication. Fined not guilty. Found guilty. Fined \$50, costs \$27.50. Given until May 7 to pay fine. Given 30 days suspended jail sentence. Had five days jail credit.

Kenneth Harwick, assault in the third degree. Dismissed on withdrawal of affiant.

Allen D. Dalton, possession of marijuana. Fined guilty. Fined \$100, costs \$27.50. Fine dismissed, given 60 days in Nicholas County Jail.

David W. Blidde, no drivers license, public intoxication, license tag expired. Fined guilty to all three charges. Fined \$10, costs \$27.50 cost for no operator's license; fined \$25, \$27.50 cost, given 30 days in jail to be probated if he pays fine and makes restitution to Mr. Casper for license tag. Fined \$10, costs \$27.50.

H. D. Johns, retail dealer on farm, Vernie Perkins and father against insurance and premiums on his farm on Base Highway.

City Sticker Citations
Southern Trucks, three trucks, prepaid costs \$82.50.
Jerry Fredrick, Dorsey Ave., failure to purchase city sticker. Prepaid fine \$10, costs \$27.50.
William Tolliver, failure to purchase sticker on window, but hard to see through tinted glass.

The following city sticker citations of USDA is continuously reviewing the safety of chemicals added to our food to insure the consumer that only approved chemicals are used at levels and under conditions that assures the welfare of the consumer.

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) has explained why its fuel adjustment charges increased significantly during the past two months.

KU has been ordered to appear before the PSC at 10 a.m. March 22 for the "show cause" hearing.

Eugene Mooney, PSC executive director, said the PSC has received approximately 700 complaints, including letters and petitions, from customers of KU. "These complaints have been directed to either the dollar amount of the total bill or the significant increase in the fuel cost factor in January and February 1973 from that of December 1972," Mr. Mooney said.

In many instances, he said, the fuel adjustment charge constituted more than half the total bill and the fuel cost factor in January increased by more than 20 per cent from that of the preceding month.

The purpose of the hearing will be to examine the cost components used to determine whether appropriate measures were taken by KU to apply such changes in a reasonable and equitable manner.

Mr. Mooney declined additional comment.

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Exercise, weight class to begin

Now is the time to plan the way you will live the remainder of your life. Health studies proving that proper nutrition and exercise can add eight to 20 years to your life. Come and join those who are seriously interested in losing weight through the application of these principles.

Classes start on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m., at the Nicholas County Health Center. This first meeting will consist of registration and nutritional information. The following meetings will consist of at least 75% exercise. Please bring a written statement from your physician recommending diet and exercise restriction.

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