



#### SONG OF THE BLUEBIRD

The bluebird strikes a proper pose  
 And on the wire he softly sings  
 A little bubbling melody  
 Born of love and higher things.  
 Not too loud, not too long,  
 So much of sweetness to be told  
 In a gurgling melody  
 Spun like gossamer threads of gold.  
 So he sings it bit by bit  
 And each small part seems to fit  
 To make it sheerest ecstasy.

—Rufus M. Reed

#### THE KINDNESS CLUB

252 WATERLOO ROW  
 FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA



# the BLUEBIRD

. . . SYMBOL OF SPRINGTIME AND HAPPINESS

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## THE BLUEBIRD TRAIL

The idea of Bluebird Trails was started in 1934, when T. E. Musselman of Quincy, Illinois, put up 25 bluebird nesting boxes on country fence posts in his farm neighborhood. He found that bluebirds built their nests and raised their young in most of his boxes.

Bluebirds do not nest on an open branch as many birds do. They look for hollows in trees or posts, sometimes using old woodpecker holes. Because farmers and gardeners have cut down old trees, pruned off dead limbs and replaced rotting fence posts with metal ones, bluebirds have trouble finding a place to live.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Get a trail leader—parent or any grownup friend—to help you if you are very young. If you are old enough and have enough enthusiasm, go ahead on your own.
2. Start with ten or 12 bluebird nest boxes, placing them about six to a mile. Be sure to ask permission of the land-owner before putting up a bluebird box on his land. Tell him you want to help the birds—who will help him by eating insects and cheering him with beauty and song.
3. Each house should be of solid wood at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick; ten to twelve inches high; 5"x5" inside; with a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " entrance hole toward the top of the front. Drill a few small holes in bottom for drainage, or cut off corners of bottom board. Paint or stain the outside of the house white (to reflect heat), grey, brown or green.

4. Put boxes up before March 1. Bluebirds nest when dogwoods bloom, usually in May, but they look for houses early. East of the Rocky Mountains, expect the Eastern Bluebird, illustrated on the cover; west of the Rockies, look for the Mountain Bluebird, who is all blue, with a dash of white underneath.

5. Fence posts are excellent sites for bluebird boxes. Nail or screw each house to the side of the post away from the cows or horses, so they cannot knock it off. If the posts are metal, wire the house in place. Four to five feet from the ground is high enough.

## BIRDS of the WOODS' EDGE

Bluebirds are "birds of the woods' edge". They like open country with scattered bushes and trees, bordered by tangles of wild grapes and fruit-bearing shrubs and trees. Save or plant some of the following, so that there will be food for the Inner Bluebird:

Pokeberry	Wild Cherry	Raspberry
Cedar (berries)	Elderberry	Mulberry
Pine (cones)	Holly	Crabapple
Mountain Ash	Dogwood	Persimmon
Hawthorn	Blackberry	Sumac

An exciting added attraction for those who put up bluebird nesting boxes is the possibility of having chickadees, nuthatches, wrens, tree swallows and others come to live in some of the boxes.

For more information about bluebirds and how to help them, write to W. G. Duncan, 519 Ridgewood Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40207. Send return stamped envelope and receive a "Bluebird Letter," and plans for a bluebird nesting box.

