

# Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

**Description:** The male Eastern Bluebird is bright blue above, reddish brown on the throat and chest, and its belly is white. Females are paler and duller than males. The juvenile is heavily spotted and has telltale traces of blue above.

**Trends:** Stable – populations have rebound due to availability of nest boxes.

**Habitat:** You can find Eastern Bluebirds in open country with patchy vegetation and large trees or nest boxes. Meadows, old fields, and golf courses are good places. Bluebirds typically sit in the open on power lines or along fences, with an alert, vertical posture. When they drop to the ground after an insect, they make a show of it, with fluttering wings and a fairly slow approach, followed by a quick return to the perch. Eastern Bluebirds eat mostly insects, wild fruit and berries.

**Ways You can help with Conservation:** Eastern Bluebirds are threatened by loss of safe cavity nesting sites, habitat loss, and declining insect populations.

*Retaining dead trees and snags unless they are a danger to structures or people is helpful for all cavity nesters. If you need a hazardous tree removed, consider leaving a portion of the trunk for birds and insects to use. Bluebirds cannot build cavities and rely on the cavities created by woodpeckers or natural cavities in dead wood. New Hope Bird Alliance sells [Bluebird nest boxes](#) with delivery locally in our 3-county area. Use a predator baffle for all nest boxes.*

*Do not use pesticides or pest control services, especially mosquito-spraying.*

*Plant native plants, especially shrubs that produce berries for fruit-eating birds like bluebirds. For more information on helping birds and creating better habitat [visit our web page](#).*



**Male Eastern Bluebird photo by Barbara Driscoll**



**Male and female by Barbara Driscoll**



**Juvenile Eastern Bluebird by Barbara Driscoll**



**Male in winter photo by Barbara Driscoll**