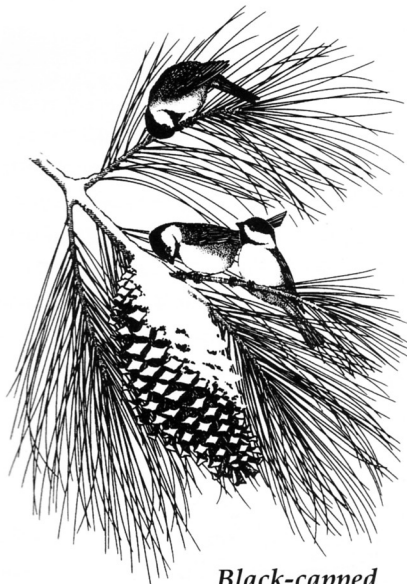


## SECTION A - OPENLANDS AND WOODLAND MARGINS



*Black-capped  
Chickadee*

### **Black-capped Chickadee**

Plan 2 (page 32)

The Black-capped Chickadee is a popular and well known bird. Many people enjoy these delightful birds at their feeders every winter, but don't realize they will also nest in yards and woodlots with mature hardwood trees.

The house shown will be used by Black-capped Chickadees if placed in the proper habitat: near evergreens, along the edges of agricultural woodlots and in extensive stands of mature hardwoods. The house should be mounted 5 to 15 feet high with 40 to 60 percent sunlight. About an inch of sawdust should be placed in the bottom of the nest box. The chickadee needs an entrance hole 1 1/8 inches in diameter. The 1 1/4 inch diameter hole shown in (Plan 1) also allows use by wrens and nuthatches, but not house sparrows.

### **Eastern Bluebird**

Plans 1, 4, and 5. (pages 31, 34, & 35)

Eastern Bluebirds are one of the most popular songbirds in Pennsylvania. Their brilliant blue colors, delightful calls, clean habits, and family devotion have long provided happiness and inspiration to people.

A typical bluebird nesting cycle:

1. Mid-March to mid-April male locates nesting site, female arrives, accepts male and builds nest. Nests are neat cup-shaped structures made of fine grass.
2. Late April: female lays one pale blue to bluish-white egg per day until there are 3 to 6 (typically 5) eggs in the nest.
3. The female incubates the eggs for about 2 weeks, the first young hatch during the second week of May.
4. By the end of May, the young bluebirds leave the nest. The male and female feed and protect the young for about another week or two. During this time, the female may start to build a new (second) nest.
5. By the second week in June, the nesting sequence is ready to repeat.

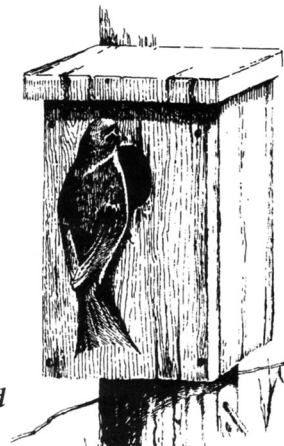
The North American Bluebird Society recommends the box illustrated in Plan 4. Most bluebird boxes are variations of this basic design. Plan 1, for example, can be used to make a simple one-board, flat roof bluebird house. Simply extend the side, front and roof to 9 inches. The remainder of a 6 foot long board can be used for the back and floor. A different hole size is required too, see Plan 24, page 58.

Easier yet, (no drill required) shorten the front by 1 1/2 inches. This will leave an open slot right beneath the roof overhang. Bluebirds will use these slots.

Box placement is important. Farmlands and other large herbageous openings are good bluebird habitat. Place boxes in meadows, old fields, pastures, country yards, along fence lines between hayfields and other crops (corn, soybeans, etc.) cemeteries, golf courses, reclaimed strip mines, or along wide rights-of-way (interstate highways, power lines, etc.). It is best if grass and weeds are short or sparse. Mowed or grazed areas provide good habitat. There should be power lines, fence posts or scattered trees in grassy areas to provide feeding perches.

Boxes should be placed 4 to 6 feet above the ground and spaced about 100 yards apart. The entrance hole should face north, northeast or east, to prevent sunlight from shining into the hole and overheating the box interior.

Boxes placed too close to buildings (House Sparrows, house cats), streams and non-forested wetlands (Raccoons and Tree Swallows), or brushy areas (House Wrens) often incur persistent competition and predation. If this happens, moving the affected box may be the best solution, or



*Bluebird*