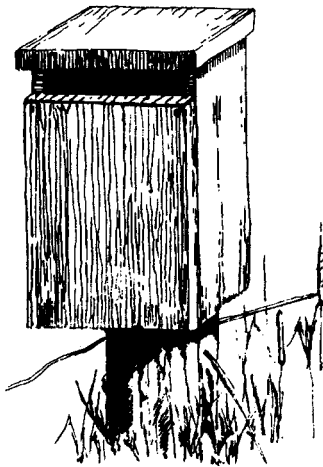


SECTION A - OPENLANDS AND WOODLAND MARGINS

implement the pertinent tips and cautions found on pages 6 and 7 of this book.



*Slotted Entrance
Bluebird House*

Other 'tricks' have been tried. For example: Some people feel that sparrow use of bluebird houses can be discouraged by cutting a 3" diameter hole in the roof and covering the hole with 1/4 or 1/2 inch hardware cloth. Bluebirds don't seem to mind the 'sunroof', but sparrows may be discouraged by it.

If competition with Tree Swallows is a problem, try placing boxes in pairs. The territorial swallows will keep other swallows away from the second box. But they won't mind if bluebirds (a different species) move in.

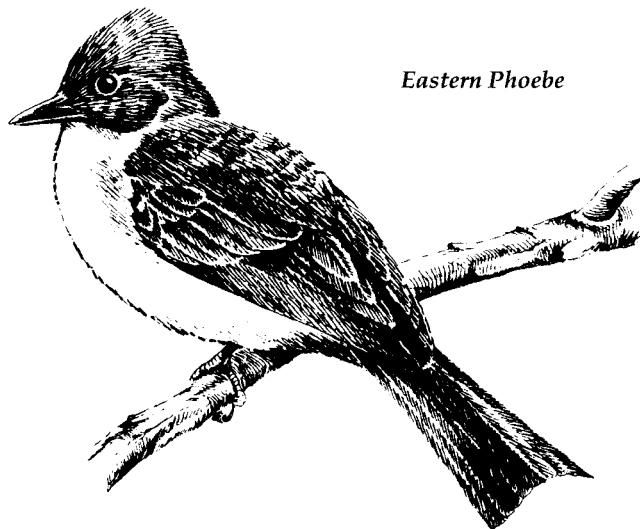
To prevent blowfly parasites on young bluebirds (and other species) bend a piece of 3/8 or 1/4 inch mesh, hardware cloth (in the shape of a shallow 'u'), so that it sits 1 inch off the floor of the box and covers the entire floor. The blowfly larvae will fall through the wire and be unable to get back up to the nest. This 'trap' was designed by Ira Campbell of Timberville, Virginia.

Conservationists have established a large number of bluebird trails. A trail may consist of a few to several hundred boxes. The boxes are distributed to take advantage of good habitat, and to promote efficient travel between boxes for persons maintaining the trail.

Houses should be cleaned out and ready for occupancy by mid-March. Generally, they should be checked at least once every

two weeks from late March until mid-August.

In September, remove old nests and cover nest box and post with a plastic leaf bag. Gather and tape the bottom of the bag. This will prevent mice from coming in over the winter and it will extend the life of the bird box. In March, remove the bag and the box is ready for bluebirds.



Eastern Phoebe

Eastern Phoebe

Plan 6 (page 36)

The Eastern Phoebe is a small gray songbird which usually feeds on insects while flying over water. Phoebes sit on low branches overhanging the water of a pond or creek, then make short abrupt flights out over the water to catch their prey.

Phoebes often build nests on nesting shelves under the eaves of lake homes or cabins. The delicate nest is a beautiful cup-shaped structure made of mosses and lichens. The phoebe's call is a distinctive buzz-like "free-bee."