

7 Facts about the Mountain Bluebird

1. Male birds are sky-blue, a bit darker on wings and tail and a bit paler below, with white under the tail.
2. The female is mostly gray-brown with tinges of pale blue in the wings and tail.
3. Mountain Bluebirds are common in the West's wide-open spaces. They tend to nest in open country with at least a few trees that provide nest cavities.
4. Bluebirds hunt insects from perches or while on the wing. They also feed on berries and seeds.
5. Males sometimes enact a kind of symbolic nest-building—miming the act of bringing nesting material to the cavity, but actually carrying nothing.
6. The female builds the insulated nest by herself. She entirely fills the cavity floor with coarse, dry grass stems and other vegetation.
7. The Mountain Bluebird migrates south for the winter season.

Source: www.allaboutbirds.org



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The Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Research & Education Centre and Office is located in the Redberry Lake Regional Park:
GPS Coordinates 52.717163, -107.215233

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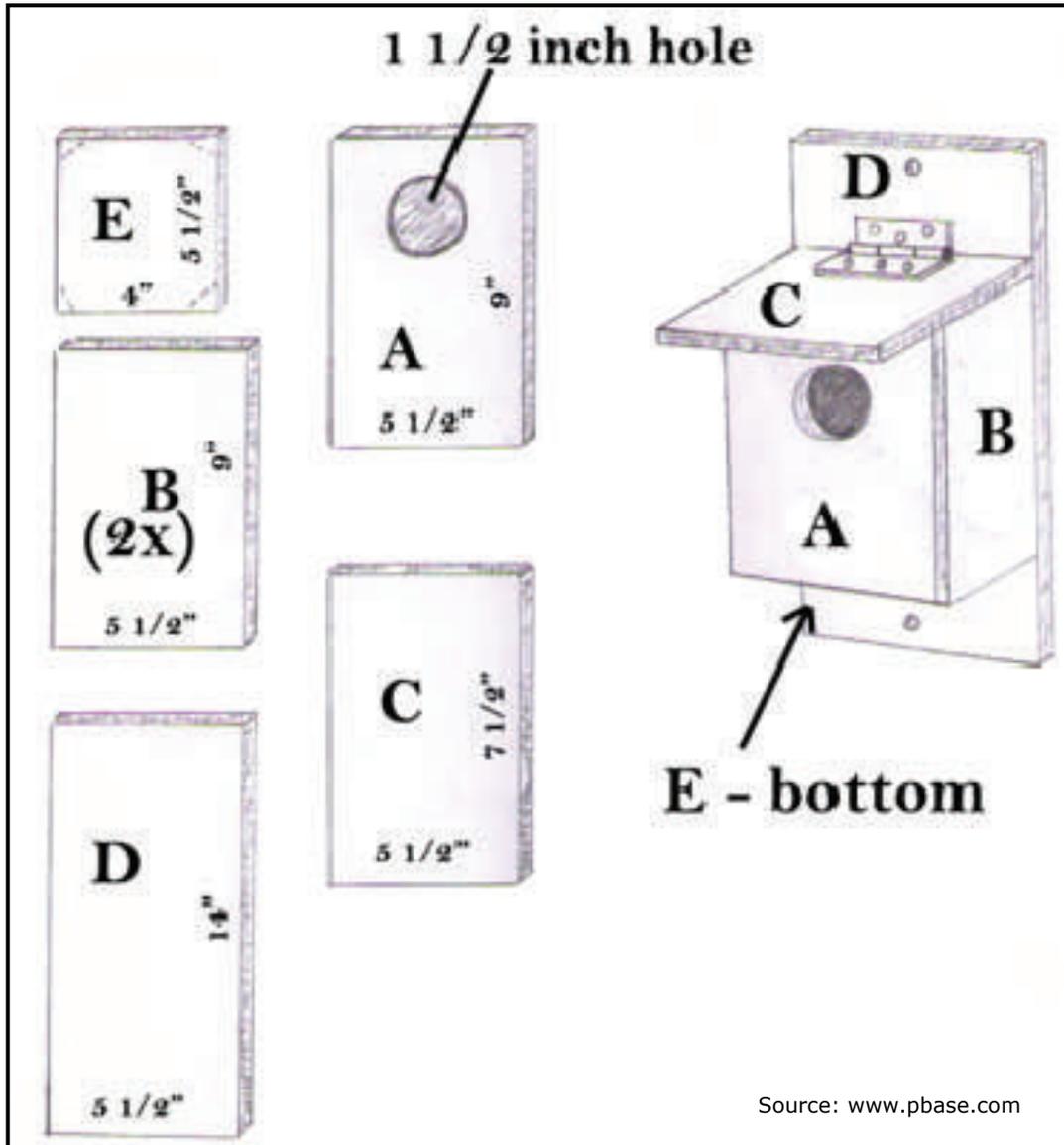
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Mountain Bluebird
(Photo: www.flickr.com, Daniel Arndt)

How to Build: A Bluebird Nest Box



You will need:

- 1" x 6" x 5' pine or cedar
- About 16 weather resistant screws between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2" long
- Drill with 1 1/2" and 1/4" diameter bit
- Table saw
- 1 hinge and shutter hook

Using a saw, cut the board to the dimensions as shown (left).

Drill 4 drain holes on the floor, and 2 ventilation holes on both sides.

Drill a 1 1/2" diameter hole in the front.

Assemble the box by carefully screwing it together. Drill pilot holes first.

Screw in the hinge to the top and the back, as shown (left). Use a shutter hook to secure roof in closed position.

Mount boxes in pairs at least 100 yards apart, with 10-20 ft between boxes in a pair. Place box at eye level on a fence post, tree or pole in an open area.

Helpful Tips

Use rough feeling wood. It helps adults cling to the side of the box when bringing nesting material and feeding.

If you plan on painting, only paint the outside. It is toxic to the Bluebirds if painted inside.

Find more ideas for nest boxes here:

<http://www.redberrylake.ca/exploreus/hikingtrailstips.php>

