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WILD BIRD BLOG

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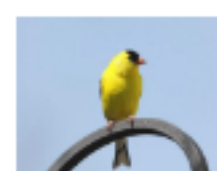
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Instant Shelter for Bluebirds



Provide Instant Shelter for Your Non-Migrating Bluebirds This Winter with Our Draft-free Bluebird Roost with Weather Protecting Guard, While Your Bluebirds "Sleep in a Heap" Together at the Bottom to Stay Warm and Survive the Night

Rumor has it...bluebirds prefer to sleep in a heap! Our one-of-a-kind winter retreat provides your overwintering bluebirds with draft-free shelter from freezing temperatures and icy winds. A dozen or more bluebirds huddle together for warmth, fanned out, on the bottom. Provide shelter for your bluebirds now and enjoy seeing your bluebirds at the first sign of spring.

"Bluebirds at the northern edge of their range - in Quebec - don't stay there year-round, while their New England counterparts can sometimes find enough food and shelter to survive the winter," according to New Hampshire Public Radio. "Which means that the bluebird in your backyard right now might be a year-round resident; or it might be a short-distance migrant from Quebec replacing the bluebird you watched last summer."

During the winter, bluebirds need shelter from chilly temperatures and hungry predators. Most roosting boxes allow warm air to rise up inside, while up to six birds perch on the ladder and huddle together for warmth. The universal design, with the entry hole on the bottom, works well for most birds—except bluebirds. Bluebirds have no need for perching areas inside their own roost. Our bluebird roost with entry hole on the top, predator guard and grooved perches (see photo right), protects bluebirds from predators. And the clear weather protecting guard keeps out the icy wind, so your bluebirds stay warm together at the bottom.



Protect your non-migrating bluebirds with their own roosting box. "Gary Springer, a bird enthusiast in Carnesville, Georgia, has 35 bluebird boxes on his 50-acre property, and several double as winter roost boxes," according to the National Wildlife Federation. "I've got a tufted titmouse that comes like clockwork—I've seen it every cold night for the past two winters," he said. The bird pops into the box about half an hour before sunset, pokes its head out for a last look around, then settles in for the night."

In the following two videos, watch bluebirds enter the roosting box to stay warm at night. For the first video, Cheryl Rose wrote in the caption, "When it starts to get dark, we watch male bluebirds fly into the birdhouse in the front yard. Then they all come out, wait for the female to arrive, and go back in to spend the night with her. She has a nice feather bed on these cold February nights!"



When providing shelter for bluebirds in winter, we couldn't agree more with the following quote from David Gwin in Texas, "You haven't seen anything until a whole flock of vibrant blue birds breaks up the brown of a winter landscape."

For the second video, below, Alan Stankevitz captured the phenomenon of thirteen bluebirds entering the roosting box around dusk. "Eastern Bluebirds are not suppose to be in Minnesota during the winter...at least that's what the books say," he wrote in the caption. "But at least for the past 5 or so years, they have been sticking around throughout the winter. When conditions are extremely cold, they roost overnight together in order to stay warm." Watch thirteen bluebirds enter the roost:



Although it may not be obvious when bluebirds are overwintering in your area, they need shelter, too. Our bluebird roost allows a dozen or more bluebirds to roost together and survive during the coldest nights of the year. Shop the Duncraft Bluebird Roost with Guard only at duncraft.com. Happy Birding!

Written by Dawn Coutu

SOURCES AND INTERESTING LINKS:

"Providing Birds with Cozy Winter Roosts: Birds that nest in cavities or birdhouses will also use boxes in winter," Berger, Cynthia. *National Wildlife Federation*, 1 Feb. 2004. 20 Dec. 2017. <<https://kids.nwf.org/Home/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Gardening/Archives/2004/Providing-Birds-With-Cozy-Winter-Roosts.aspx>>.

"Roosting," *Sialis*. 24 Mar. 2016. 20 Dec. 2017. <<http://www.sialis.org/roost.htm>>.

"Something Wild: Where Have All the Birds Gone?" Martin, Chris, Dave Anderson and Andrew Parrella. *New Hampshire Public Radio*, 18 Dec. 2015. 20 Dec. 2017. <<http://nhpr.org/post/something-wild-where-have-all-birds-gone#stream/0>>.

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