

# Nesting Box Bluebird Hope

The tuneful bluebird once again includes a song of hope in its repertoire. Warbling a cheerful melody hasn't been easy for the fabled bearer of happiness. Once fluttering close to extinction, the birds are staging a comeback thanks to a series of nesting box trails in the United States and Canada.

"The eastern bluebird—now so scarce that most people under 30 have never seen one—surely is one of the loveliest and most appealing of North American birds," writes Dr. Lawrence Zeleny in a recent issue of National Geographic. "Its extinction remains a real possibility, but a determined rescue campaign has been mounted in the United States and Canada."

**Numbers Have Dropped**  
Since retirement in 1966 as an agricultural biochemist, Dr. Zeleny has devoted all his efforts to the nationwide

effort to save the bluebird. During the past forty years, the numbers of the eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) may have plummeted as much as 90 percent. The mountain bluebird in the Rocky Mountain region and the western bluebird have suffered less, but gradually they are succumbing to the same pressures.

Two rival birds, the starling and the house sparrow, have contributed to the catastrophe. These aggressive interlopers like to nest in the same natural or man-made enclosures re-

quired by the milder-mannered bluebirds. People, too, have sped the decline. In city and countryside, dead trees with cavities that once provided bluebird nesting sites have been cut down and hauled away.

Old wooden posts where bluebirds once found cozy hollows have been replaced by metal posts. Unable to find suitable places to raise their young, bluebirds face disaster.

**Saved By Nesting Boxes**  
Conservationists and bird lovers have fostered a modest comeback by build-

ing trails of nesting boxes for bluebirds. A trail may consist of any number of nesting boxes, usually placed a hundred yards or more apart. The generous spacing prevents fighting among the highly territorial birds.

Says Dr. Zeleny: "The 85 boxes of our Beltsville, Maryland, bluebird trail have yielded hundreds of healthy fledglings, dramatic evidence that the most practical way to help these azure-and-russet songsters is to supply them abundantly with nesting boxes."

In the United States most bluebird trails lie east of the Mississippi River. Canada boasts the world's longest bluebird trail. Threading its way through Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the string of nesting boxes covers a distance of about 2,000 miles.

Bluebirds nest in every state except Hawaii, and in every Canadian province except Newfoundland. The birds have always been an asset to farmers and gardeners. Most of the year their diet consists almost entirely of such insect pests as crop-ravaging grasshoppers and cutworms.



By Michael L. Smith © National Geographic

## Build your own bluebird nesting box

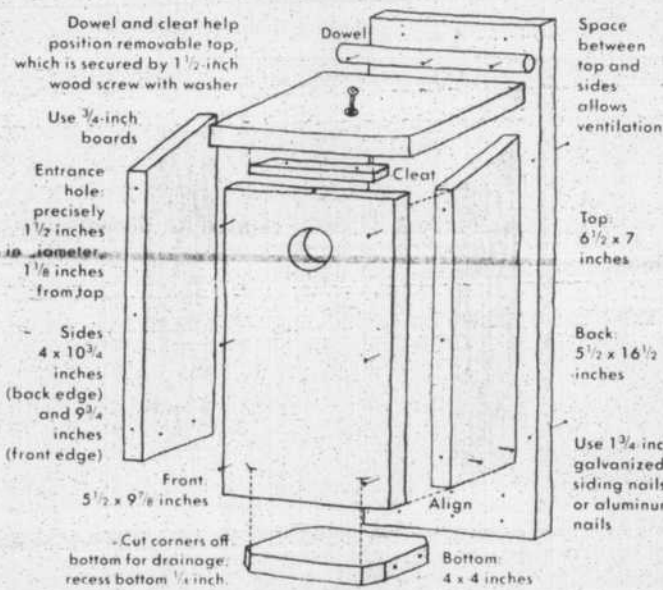
"How readily the bluebirds become our friends and neighbors when we offer them suitable nesting retreats!" wrote 19th-century naturalist John Burroughs. His observation seems even more relevant today as aggressive house sparrows and starlings usurp bluebird nesting places, and man with his disdain for tree stumps and dead branches saws them down.

Thus pressed, bluebirds take quickly to boxes, such as this large one (right). Its extra depth protects against raccoons and other marauders. Where predators don't threaten, shallower boxes suffice (diagram below).

In the past five years nearly 1,000 bluebirds were raised in 85 boxes by Dr. Lawrence Zeleny, who reports on the embattled bluebird in the June National Geographic.

Bluebirds prefer open areas with scattered trees. Boxes may be constructed of almost any type of wood, and they should be mounted three to five feet off the ground for convenient monitoring. Fence posts make practical supports; greased metal poles help thwart predators.

An entrance hole 1½ inches wide will bar starlings but not sparrows, which must be evicted. The persistent squatters have been known to return eight times or more before giving up.



## Energy Saving Gets Lip Service

Only one in 10 people feel there is no need to conserve energy, but many Americans are not putting their beliefs into actions.

According to Dr. Justine Rozier, extension family resource management specialist at North Carolina State University, national government-conducted surveys reveal the main reason people save energy is to save money.

Thirteen per cent of all people surveyed feel there is no energy problem at all and only five per cent know that the nation's problem is related to dependence on foreign oil supplies.

Seventy-six per cent say they are willing to cut their car's fuel consumption by sharing a ride to and from work, but only 10 per cent now carpool, eight per cent now ride buses and five per cent walk to work.

Forty-two per cent of the people do not know where their water heater control is to adjust its temperature and 50 per cent do not know that it takes less gasoline to restart a car than to let it idle for one minute or more.

# Deaths And Funerals

**MISS HELEN RICKS**  
Graveside services for Miss Helen Ricks, formerly of Blacksburg, Va., will be held at Grace Church, Palmer Springs, Va., at 2 p. m. Thursday, August 25.

**DAVID LEE FAULCON**  
Funeral services for Mr. David Lee Faulcon, 62, owner and operator of Faulcon's Cabs, will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock at the Greater Lovely Hill Baptist Church in Embro. The Rev. Robert Burnett will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Mr. Faulcon died Friday, after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Maria Faulcon of the home; two sons, David Lee Faulcon, Jr., of Bronx, N. Y. and Leonard Faulcon of Charlotte, and eight grandchildren.

**MRS. LETTIE S. RODWELL**  
Funeral services for Mrs. Lettie Seward Rodwell, 73, were conducted at 1 p. m. Sunday from Norlina Baptist Church by the Rev. Jasper R. Johnson. The Rev. S. P. Massengill is pastor of the church. Interment was in Jerusalem Christian Church Cemetery at Palmer Springs, Va.

Mrs. Rodwell died on Thursday, Aug. 18, in Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson after a lengthy illness. The daughter of the late Peter and Bettie Seward, Mrs. Rodwell was born in Mecklenburg County, Va., on April 16, 1904. She joined Jerusalem Church at an early age and remained a faithful member until her health failed her. She was married to the late Pink Rodwell.

Mrs. Rodwell is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Carrie B. Kiser and Mrs. Mary B. Floyd, both of Portsmouth, Va., Mrs. Pinkie Fields of the home, and Mrs. Johnnie M. Walker of New Jersey; five sons, Eddie L. Rodwell of Amherst, Va., Henry L. Rodwell and Thomas E. Rodwell, both of Charlottesville, Va., and Simon Jones of Norfolk, Va.; 19 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren; five sisters, Mrs. Nellie Mitchell of Manson, Mrs. Bessie Seward of Youngsville. Mrs. Lucy B. Jones and Mrs.

Ellen Johnson, both of Palmer Springs, Va., and Mrs. Mary Hendricks of New York City; four brothers, Louis Seward of Washington, D. C., Peter Seward of Philadelphia, Pa., and Morse Seward and Jake Seward of Manson.

Pallbearers were John Jenkins, Thomas Kersey, Francis Alston, Alfred Coleman, James W. Johnson and James Hargrove.

**MRS. MAGGIE T. HUDSON**  
Funeral services for Mrs. Maggie Taylor Hudson, 56, of New York, were conducted at 1:30 p. m., Saturday, Aug. 20 from Ashley Grove Baptist Church of Vaughan, by the Rev. M. L. Harris. The Rev. W. L. Dilday is pastor of the church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Hudson died on Tuesday, Aug. 16, at Montestore Hospital in Bronx, N. Y. The daughter of the late Nora and Ashley Taylor, she was born in Warren County on March 5, 1921. She was married to Albert N. Hudson and to this union one son was born. She joined Ashley Grove Baptist Church at Vaughan at an early age. As a young adult she migrated to New York and became affiliated with Co-op City Protestant Church.

She is survived by a son, Clayton Alonzo Hudson; three sisters, Ethel T. Boney, Bertha Washington and Clara Bennett; and two brothers, Ashley Taylor and Ernest Taylor.

Pallbearers were Jesse Carter, James E. Clanton, Michael Carter, Sam Powell, George L. Bullock, and Lorenzo Harris.

**THOMAS ARCH CREECH HENDERSON** - Funeral services for Thomas Arch Creech, 22, were conducted Sunday at 3 p. m. from J. M. White Funeral Chapel by the Rev. J. W. Crosswhite. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery.

Mr. Creech died Friday at Duke Medical Center in Durham after a short illness. He was an employee of Harriet Henderson Cotton Mill and a resident of Route 2, Henderson.

Surviving are his parents, Rubin Arch and Dollie Mae Griffin Creech of the home; five brothers, Rubin A. Creech, Jr., Ludie E. Creech and Claude F. Creech, all of the home, and R. C. Creech and Julian Creech of Warrenton; and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Lillie Ann Griffin.

Pallbearers were James Pierce, William Overby, Thomas Hill, Robert Overby, Roger Allen, John Newhouse and Jerry Peoples.

**WILLIE BOYD**  
Funeral services for Willie Boyd, 76, were held Saturday, August 20, at the Second Baptist Church in Macon with the Rev. Jeremiah Webb officiating. Burial was in the Mt. Zion Church cemetery.

He is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Vergie Moss and Miss Lillian Boyd of the home; Mrs. Viola Mingie of Suffolk, Va.; two brothers, Walter Boyd of Hackensack, N. J., and Nathaniel Boyd of the home.

### In Hospital

Patients in Warren General Hospital on Tuesday at 5 p. m. were listed as follows:

Romie Lyles, Annie Tunstall, Nellie Mitchell, Gilmore Copley, Henrietta Davis, Frances Bullock, Mary Wortham, Christine Felts, Clara Kimball, Mary Fleming, Perceda Green, Mary Alston, Henry Robertson, Luther Eddie Boone, Deborah White, James Richardson, Lois Journigan, Hester Thornton, Annie Pegram, James Wortham, Charles Fields, Arthur Stephenson, Rita Fields.

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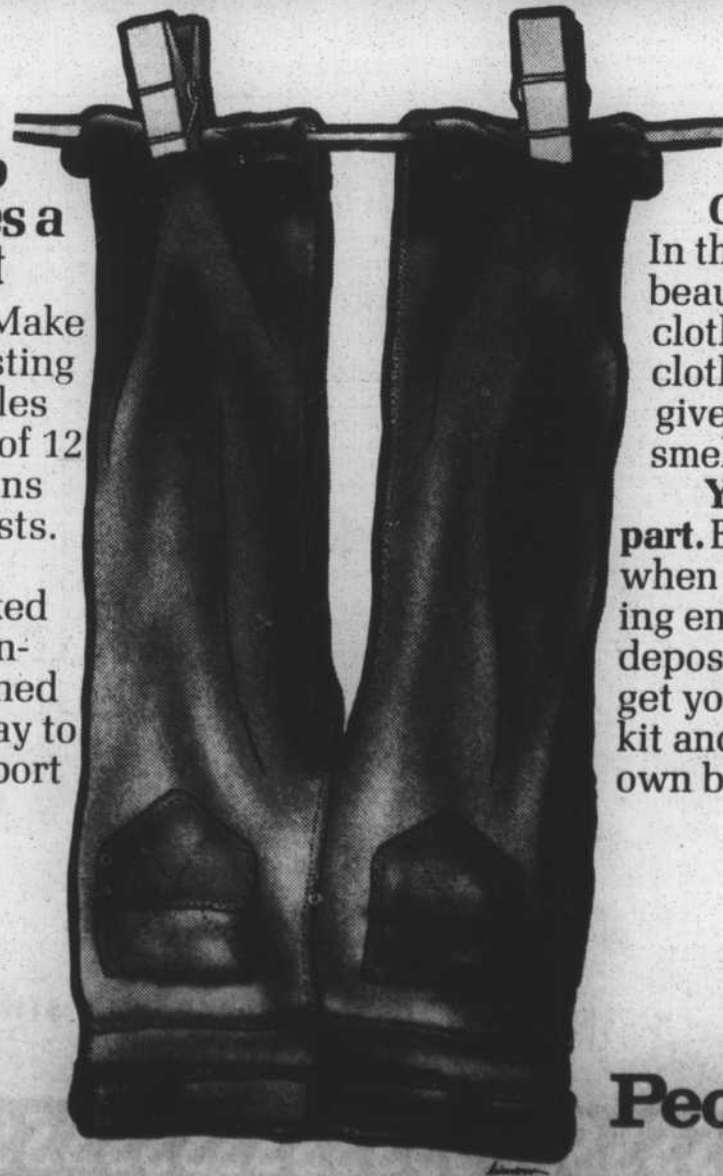
The Warren Record

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