

# Caring for your Habitat Structure

## EASTERN BLUEBIRD



### Thank you!

By installing this habitat structure, you are providing an essential nesting area for wildlife in need. Landowners like you play a vital role in providing habitat for wildlife in the Credit River watershed.

### Habitat

Eastern bluebirds are found in grasslands, open forests, and agricultural areas.

### When to Expect Them

Late March to early August

### Call

Sounds like: “*Chur-wi, chur-wi*” or “*tu-a-wee*”

### Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Grassland, open forest, farm
Height off Ground (m)	1 – 2
Entrance Hole Facing	East toward open habitat
Spacing	90 m apart
Attach to	Pole
Installation Time	September to March

### **Care of the Habitat Structure**

Clean out old nest material and wipe the box clean before the breeding season begins in March. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom of the box and rotate the moveable panel upward. Eastern bluebirds usually have more than one brood per year. Promptly cleaning the box when the young leave in spring can increase the chance of a second brood.

### **Important Notes**

A predator guard is recommended to keep racoons and cats out of your bluebird box.

### **What Else Can You Do to Help?**

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for bluebirds on your property, reducing the need for nest boxes. Leave dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people to provide shelter and breeding space. Planting native species such as gray dogwood, Virginia creeper and Canada elderberry can help provide a local food source.

*Photo Credit: Jon Clayton*