

Audubon Center & Sanctuary

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Plight of the Bluebird: Curriculum Integration Guide

Warm up Their Brains Before We Come

- **Pre-visit Activity:** Many people have a misunderstanding; they think bluebirds are blue jays or vice versa. See if you can find a picture of a bluebird and another of a blue jay. Ask your students if they have seen either.
- Find out if any of your students put out nest boxes. Let them share their stories.

Activities and Ideas for Extending the Learning

- Use the post-visit activity to reinforce the concepts.
- Put up nest boxes on your school property. Monitor them from early April through the end of the school year.
- Do an Internet search for “Lawrence Zeleny”.
- Come to Audubon! (At the Snowflake Festival on Superbowl Sunday, visitors can build a nest box for a small fee.) For your field trip, ask for a Nest Box walk!

Books

- Donald & Lillian Stokes: *Stokes Bluebird Book: The Complete Guide to Attracting Bluebirds*. ISBN 0-316-81745-7
- This lovely book may be out of print. But if you can find a copy, it is worth a read: *The Bluebird: How You Can Help Its Fight for Survival* by Lawrence Zeleny.

Web Resources

Checkout the following two links, both by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

- <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/> This on-line field guide to birds includes photographs, text, and even sound.
- <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse> This section of the Cornell website is devoted to birds that will use nest boxes.
- The North American Bluebird Society also has a website at: <http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org>.

NYS Standard - The Living Environment

Major Understanding: #7.1c

Humans, as individuals or communities, change environments in ways that can be either helpful or harmful for themselves and other organisms.

PA Environmental Education Standard

EE 4.7.4 B.2 Explain what happens to a living thing when its food, water, shelter or space is changed.

Objective of the Program

Students will be able to describe what happened to bluebird populations as humans made changes to the environment. Students will learn many interesting facts about cavity nesting birds.

