



Eastern Bluebird



Tree Swallow

cavity-nesting birds.

Likely species in the the wood duck house are, of course, wood ducks. While unlikely, it is possible to attract common and hooded mergansers, goldeneyes, and buffleheads.



The Friends of the Horticulture Farm is a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and promoting the significant plant collections and natural areas of the UVM Horticultural Research Center in South Burlington, Vermont for education, research, and public enrichment.

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New Birdhouses



at the Hort Farm





About the Houses

13 birdhouses were erected and placed around the Horticulture Farm during the summer of 2007 as part of an integrated pest management (IPM) program..

12 of the houses were constructed for the needs of small, cavity-nesting, insect-eating song birds such as the eastern bluebird.

These songbird houses are small (5.5 inches by 12 inches) with an entrance hole about 1.5 inches in diameter.

There are 4 drainage holes in the bottom of each house, allowing water to drain out. The floors are hinged to allow easy clean out of old nests.

The wood duck nesting box is larger than the other houses (8 inches by 15 inches) with an entrance hole about 4 inches in diameter.

4 inches of cedar shavings cover the bottom of this box. A trellis on the inside of the front wall allows the nestlings to climb and jump from the nest when ready to fledge.



Wood Duck

The birdhouses are mounted on free standing poles to discourage predators.



House Placement

They are located near the pond or an open field and are positioned to face east or north to avoid overheating.

The optimal habitat for wood duck nesting boxes includes sheltered ponds or any place with standing water among trees.

When desirable birds are not nesting, weekly checks should be made to evict unwanted inhabitants such as house sparrows, mice, and insects.



General Maintenance

After each brood has fledged, the box should be emptied and cleaned to protect new tenants from accumulated pests and possible predators.

The Birds

The most likely inhabitants of the small houses are eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, and house sparrows.

House sparrows are not desirable. Introduced from Europe, this species will often harrass or kill



House Sparrow