

BLUEBIRD TRAIL, SPRINGTON RESERVOIR
DELAWARE COUNTY, PA

1972 - 1983

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On December 16, 1972 while on the Glenolden Christmas Count, Jesse Grantham and I saw ten Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*). The total number of bluebirds seen by all parties in the count area that year was 16. We saw eight of these in a tight flock near Springton Reservoir. They were in perfect bluebird habitat; open country with scattered trees, cut grass, and a few fruit-bearing trees and shrubs. (Eastern Bluebirds depend almost entirely on wild berries for their winter food supply.)

That winter I decided to establish a Bluebird Trail. With permission from the Suburban Water Company, several cedar nest boxes were placed on their property near the Reservoir. Unfortunately, these boxes were vandalized by *Homo sapiens* and no birds nested that year.

After repairing the boxes I waited another year and was rewarded by having one box used by a pair of bluebirds. The nest was built of dry grass and contained four blue eggs. Again, this box was damaged and the eggs smashed. For a number of years, human and animal intrusion thwarted the bluebirds' and my efforts to reestablish bluebirds at Springton Reservoir. Finally, in 1979, the bluebirds were successful - seven fledged.

The following data summarize the results of my nesting boxes since 1979:

1979	1 pair	1 box	7 fledged in 2 broods
1980	2 pairs	4 boxes	17 fledged in 4 broods
1981	2 pairs	6 boxes	18 fledged in 5 broods
1982	7 pairs	11 boxes	27 fledged in 7 broods
1983	8 pairs	16 boxes	33 fledged in 8 broods