WHAT & WHERE BENEFICIAL SONGBIRDS EAT & NEST IN MINNESOTA/WISCONSIN*

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Beneficial Birds	Crop Pests Eaten by Birds**	Foraging Areas ³²	Preferred Nesting Habitat ^{33, 34, 35}	Nest Box Spacing ³⁶	Eggs	Nesting Material ³⁷	Nests
NATIVE BIRDS THAT USE EASTERN BLUEBIRD BOXES							
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	Caterpillars, grasshoppers, crickets, cankerworms, cutworms, ¹ beetles ²	Ground gleaner & forager, lower- canopy gleaner	Prefers semi-open grasslands and scattered trees; vineyards, orchards, diverse farmscapes, riparian, forests	300′		Fine grasses and /or pine needles	
BLACK- CAPPED CHICKADEE (Carolina)	Black-capped: Codling moths, ³ tent caterpillars, ⁴ pear pyslla, ⁵ cankermoths. ⁶ Carolina: Caterpillars, aphids, scale, ⁷ true bugs, ants, aphids, tree-hoppers, leaf hoppers ⁸	Lower- canopy gleaner & forager	Prefers deciuous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests, swamps, open woods and parks in urban & suburban areas	Black- capped: 650' Carolina: 30'		Moss, bark and/or lichen lined with fur, hair or plant fibers	
NUTHATCH (& White- breasted & Red-breasted)	True bugs, scale, aphids, bark beetles, tent caterpillars, & spongy moths, cankerworms, leafrollers, ⁹ pear pyslla ¹⁰	Upper canopy, bark gleaner	Generally, likes more wooded locations than E. Bluebird. Orchards, open woodland, forest edges, deciduous &/or coniferous woodlands	White- breasted: 1040' Red- breasted: 150'		Fur, bark, grass and/or dirt, lined with fine grasses, shredded bark & feathers	
TREE SWALLOW (& Violet- green)	Flies, true bugs, sawflies, ants, beetles, moths, ¹¹ mosquitoes, cankerworms, cabbage butter- flies ¹²	Air screener, lower canopy gleaner	Prefers wetlands, lakes, creeks, & water/mud for nest building. Tree: Diverse farmscapes, vineyards, marshes, wooded swamps. Violet-green: Open woodlands, forest edges	Tree: 35' Violet- green: 30'		Grasses lined with many feathers	
TITMOUSE (Tufted)	Caterpillars, sawflies, ants, beetles ¹³	Lower- canopy gleaner & forager	Prefers deciduous and ever- green forests, suburban yards, parks & orchards	580′		Leaves, moss, grasses, & bark strips lined with hair, fur, wool & cotton	
BEWICK'S WREN (& House)	Bewick's: Leaf bugs, true bugs, weevils, caterpillars. 14 House: Caterpillars, beetles, true bugs, ants, 15 grubs, grasshoppers, spongy moths, millers 16	Lower canopy gleaner, ground gleaner	Prefers more wooded locations than E. Bluebird. Bewick's: Hedgerows, shrubs, open woodlands, riparian. House: Farmyards, open woodlands, riparian, forests	Bewick's: 450' House: 100'		Sticks, with an inner cup lined with plant fibers	
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER	Caterpillars, flies, midges, 17 beetles, ants, leafhoppers, snails, grasshoppers 18	Lower- canopy gleaner, bark gleaner	Prefers wooded swamps, bottomland forests and marsh habitat	235′		Moss, rootlets, plant down, grape plants or cypress bark, lined with grasses, sedges, leaves, poison ivy tendrils	A PAIR

UNWELCOME NON-NATIVE BIRD THAT USES EASTERN BLUEBIRD NEST BOXES & NEST SHELVES

HOUSE SPARROW (also called English Sparrow)



Fly larvae, aphids, weevils, grasshoppers, caterpillars 19

Ground Holes in buildi gleaner in open areas, Swallow nests

Holes in buildings, nest boxes in open areas, old Barn

Variable



Tall, sloppy, tunnel nest of grasses, possibly with feathers & trash



NATIVE BIRDS THAT USE NEST SHELVES & BUILDING EAVES

AMERICAN
ROBIN



Weevils and beetles,²⁰ cutworms, white grubs, grasshoppers, tent caterpillars, spongy moths, silkworms, aphids, cankerworms, armyworms, brown tail larvae²¹

Ground gleaner, lower canopy & ground forager Farmlands, woodlands, gardens & parks



Grasses, twigs, feathers, rootlets or moss with mud



BARN SWALLOW



Cutworms, mosquitoes, codling moths, cankerworms, leaf-rollers, 22 tarnished plant bugs, seedcorn maggots, 23 cabbage seedpod weevils, pollen beetles, 24 leaf bugs, flies, wasps, beetles 25

Air Farmlands, grasslands, screener riparian, & water/mud for nest building

5′



Mud and grass base lined with grass, then feathers



EASTERN PHOEBE



Ants, beetles, grasshoppers, true bugs, caterpillars, flies, ²⁶ spongy moths, cankerworms, cutworms, mosquitoes, striped cucumber beetles, may beetles, weevils, grasshoppers, wasps²⁷

Fly out to catch insects, lowercanopy gleaner Open woodland, riparian and water/mud for nest building

165'

Mud, moss, leaves mixed with grass stems and hair



CLIFF SWALLOW



Wasps, leaf bugs, squash bugs, stink bugs, shield bugs, leaf hoppers, tree hoppers, psyllids, beetles, flies²⁸ Air screener Farmlands, pastures, riparian, and water resources for mud nest building

Will nest communally



Mud lined with dried grasses



OTHER NATIVE BIRDS THAT USE NEST BOXES DIFFERENT THAN EASTERN BLUEBIRDS

PURPLE MARTIN



True bugs, caterpillars, aphids, weevils, moths, ²⁹ flies, rose beetles, may beetles, striped cucumber beetles³⁰

Fly out to catch insects Large open or semi-open areas, especially near water

10′



Twigs, leaves, plant stems, mud, and grass



GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER



Moths, beetles, grasshoppers, true bugs, and flies³¹

Fly out to catch insects, lowercanopy gleaner Open deciduous or mixed woodlands, forest edges & riparian

6 acres



Grasses, leaves, twigs, fur, shells, feathers, bark, moss, cellophane, onion skin, paper, cloth, snakeskin



^{*} References and photo credits available at www.wildfarmalliance.org/nesting_structures

^{**} Based on recent and historic studies, but not exhaustive analyses.