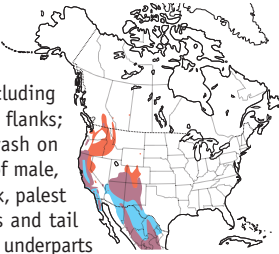


WESTERN BLUEBIRD *Sialia mexicana* L 7-7.25 in

Colorful bird that perches on wires and branches, scanning for insect prey; also eats berries. Nests in tree holes and uses nest boxes. Sexes are dissimilar. **ADULT MALE** Has mostly deep blue upperparts including head and neck, with clear demarcation from orange-red breast and flanks; note orange-brown scapulars. Underparts are whitish with bluish wash on center of belly and undertail. **ADULT FEMALE** Recalls drab version of male,

with gray-brown head, neck, and back, palest on throat. Has bluish flight feathers and tail and orange wash to breast and flanks; underparts are otherwise pale gray-buff. **JUVENILE** Overall brown with pale spots on upperparts and scaly-looking underparts. **VOICE** Song, heard mainly at dawn, is a series of call notes *chut't* and *chew*. **STATUS AND HABITAT** Scarce summer visitor (mainly Apr-Aug) to north of range; resident or winter visitor further south. Favors open woodland. Numbers reduced by habitat loss and nest competition with European Starling and House Sparrow. Nest-box schemes help restore numbers. **OBSERVATION TIPS** Visit an area with nest boxes.



JUVENILE



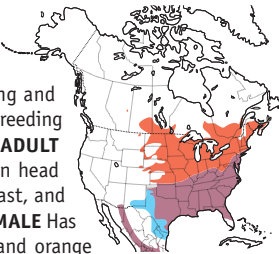
FEMALE

WESTERN
BLUEBIRD

MALE

EASTERN BLUEBIRD *Sialia sialis* L 7-7.25 in

Similar to Western, but separable using ranges (barely overlap, except slightly in winter in southwest) and plumage differences. Females are very similar, so focus on colors on face and underparts. Nesting and feeding habits are similar to those of Western. Forms flocks outside breeding season, sometimes mixing with other species. Sexes are dissimilar. **ADULT MALE** Has mainly deep blue upperparts, including scapulars, but on head color forms a cap (hood in male Western). Throat, sides of neck, breast, and flanks are orange-red, while belly and undertail are white. **ADULT FEMALE** Has mostly gray-brown upperparts, with blue flight feathers and tail, and orange wash on underparts. Compared to female Western, note that orange wash extends to side of neck, and belly and undertail are cleaner white. **JUVENILE** Similar to juvenile Western. **VOICE** Song is a rapid series of twittering warbling notes; call is a sharp *tch'ree*. **STATUS AND HABITAT** Fairly common in west of range. Summer visitor in north (mainly Apr-Sept), but present year-round or just in winter further south. Favors lightly wooded terrain including secondary woodland and large gardens. Has declined, in part due to nest competition with European Starlings and House Sparrows. Nest-box schemes help restore many local populations. **OBSERVATION TIPS** Easy to see within range.



JUVENILE



FEMALE

EASTERN
BLUEBIRD

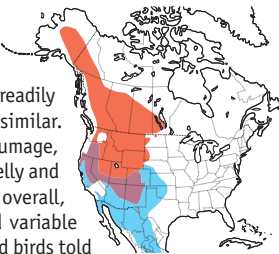
MALE

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Sialia currucoides L 7.25-7.5 in

Stunning bird with longer wings and tail than other bluebirds. Often hovers while scanning ground for insect prey. Nests in tree holes and readily uses nest boxes. Forms flocks outside breeding season. Sexes are dissimilar.

ADULT MALE Has mostly sky-blue plumage, darkest on wings and tail, palest on belly and undertail. **ADULT FEMALE** Gray-buff overall, but with blue on wings and tail and variable orange wash to breast; brightly marked birds told from other female bluebirds by longer wings and tail, paler upperparts, and hovering habits. **JUVENILE** Recalls adult female, but underparts are pale-spotted. **VOICE** Song is a series of call notes, including a whistling *tche'ew*. **STATUS AND HABITAT** Common summer visitor (Apr-Aug) to woodland; winters at lower altitudes. **OBSERVATION TIPS** Easy to see.



JUVENILE



FEMALE

MOUNTAIN
BLUEBIRD

MALE