Bluebirds

Today on Gardening in a Minute: bluebirds.

One hundred years ago, Eastern bluebirds were seen along Florida roadsides and in fields, parks, and pastures. But today, many Floridians have never seen one of these colorful small birds.

Bluebirds build their nests in dead trees and in wooden fence posts. Until recently, they had all but disappeared from Florida.

Aggressive bird species such as sparrows and starlings steal the nesting sites of bluebirds and other cavity-nesters. Development has also destroyed much of their native habitat.

But bluebirds are making a comeback, because gardeners and landowners have been building birdhouses for them to use.

You, too, can help these beautiful, musical birds by building a house on your property. Boxes should be ventilated, easy to clean, and watertight with drainage holes.

For more information about bluebirds and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.