

# BLUEBIRD PROJECT 2019



*Join Us This Spring!*

# NEST BOX PROGRAM

GRADE 1-6

We invite your school to join us for the 2019 Bluebird Project. Students will follow bluebird expert Kyle Regeling as he monitors 11 bluebird nest boxes in spring 2019. The project will be filmed at the 43 acre Not So Hollow Farm property in Mulmur, Ontario.

Teachers at participating schools will receive weekly YouTube updates to be played in class. There is opportunity to interact, learn and have fun!



## LIFE SCIENCES

BIOLOGY

This three-month long project will document the whole process of how eastern bluebirds nest and raise their young. Students will learn all about migration, nesting cycles, diets, identification and more about bluebirds.



## CONSERVATION

REHABILITATION

Students will learn how important human efforts are to sustaining and growing populations of native species. Many aspects of conservation and biodiversity will be discussed during the life of the project this spring.



## CONNECTION

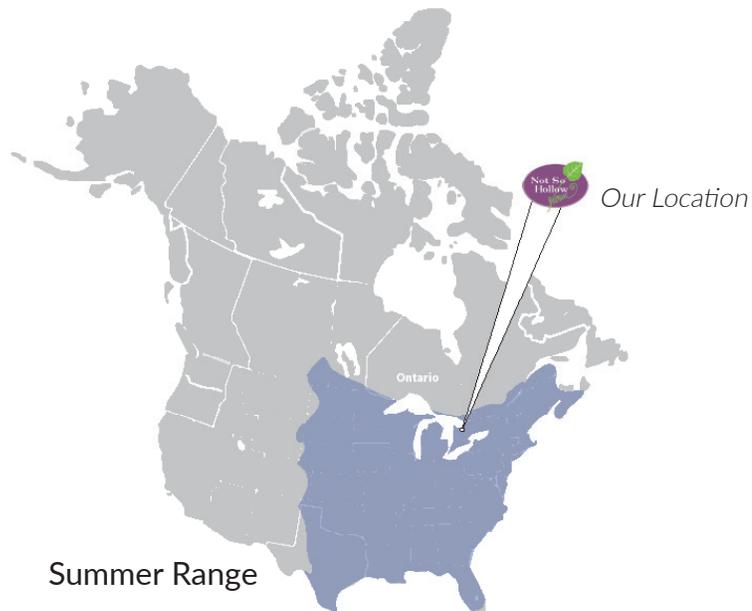
VIDEO

The project finds new ways to connect the classroom with field work. Students will follow a project that would normally be inaccessible to them for geographic and practical reasons. There will be plenty of opportunity for correspondence and connection during the project.



**EASTERN BLUEBIRD**  
OUR MAIN SPECIES

The eastern bluebird is a small thrush that is found in open woodlands, farmland, pastures & orchards. The male has a striking royal blue upper plumage that is contrasted by a burnt ochre chest. Known as a cavity-nesting species, it will naturally choose a tree hollow to build a nest; however it takes extremely well to using a nest box. The bluebird's diet consists of insects that are found in field habitats such as: grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars, spiders and crickets.





## WHY DO EASTERN BLUEBIRDS NEED NEST BOXES?

Being a cavity-nesting species, the eastern bluebird requires very specific conditions for an adequate nesting site. Unfortunately, less and less sufficient tree cavities occur naturally in bluebird habitat. This is due in part to fewer mature dead trees in the countryside but mainly due to the introduction of the European starling & house sparrow who compete for similar nesting cavities.

Thankfully with a widespread effort to install bluebird nest boxes, populations have rebounded and have remained steady. A properly designed bluebird nest box has an entrance hole too small for European starlings and can be placed in less favourable locations for house sparrows.

Without nest boxes eastern bluebirds would be in steep decline. Conservation efforts across North America have fortified these populations. Let's support this valuable species together!



# GET YOUR CLASSROOM INVOLVED

## 01

### Sign up to receive emails

The start of the project is slated for the first week in April. The structure will be based around weekly emails to keep teachers informed and included.

Consider starting now to stay in the loop. Ensure you will be informed about all project details by joining the email list. Don't worry - we won't spam you with needless emails or promotions.

[Email Sign Up](#)

## 02

### Vote for a nest box

We have 11 nest boxes installed across the property at Not So Hollow Farm. To have some fun this year we ask you to select one box as a class to cheer on. After the first video your class will have the opportunity to submit your choice.

Once you have selected a box to root for, the fun will begin! Will your box selection get the first eggs?

We have two prizes available for the 2019 bluebird project.

1. A draw of the classes who selected the nest box that has the first bluebird eggs (May-June).
2. Draw for all the schools who signed up to follow along (June)

More info announced about the terms and type of prize (maybe funds for a class pizza party?!)

## 03

### Let the journey begin

Follow along as a class and watch the story unfold!

Each update video will accomplish three general purposes:

1. Teach and inform students about bluebird conservation, life cycles and the breeding process.
2. Engage students with a "live" storyline and connect them with a conservation project that was formerly inaccessible.
3. Have fun! The jokes, the punchy music and following "your" nest box is going to make the journey an absolute blast!

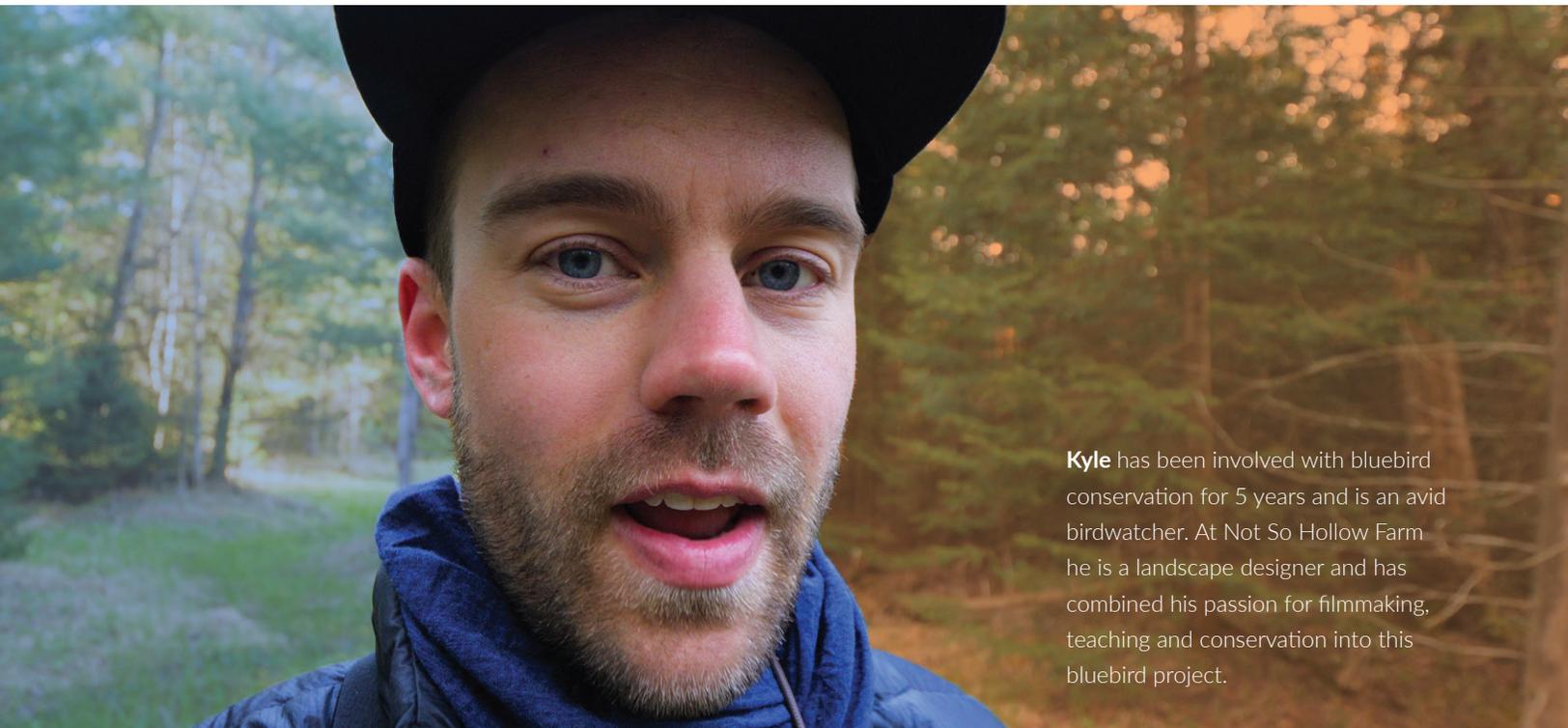
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# YOUTUBE JOURNEY

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Presented in a vlog style format the goal will be to create a real-life experience for your students. Consider Kyle as your tour guide for the life of the project. We are excited to use new media to connect students with a real time project in an outdoor application.

It's the closest thing to being there!



**Kyle** has been involved with bluebird conservation for 5 years and is an avid birdwatcher. At Not So Hollow Farm he is a landscape designer and has combined his passion for filmmaking, teaching and conservation into this bluebird project.

## Ask questions in the comment section

Opportunity to ask questions begins in the comment section of the Youtube video but an email is another option. Kyle will be attentive to common questions that arise during the project.

Chances are a question segment will be added to the weekly video. Ask away!

## Speaking and live streaming

Kyle is able to speak at local schools or live stream for schools abroad. This will allow students to meet and interact with Kyle on a first hand basis.

Please contact Kyle by email for further information.

## Please spread the word

We want as many schools as possible involved in the project. Please inform your friends and contacts in the school system about our spring project. Are they located outside Canada? Great!!! Let's make the project impactful worldwide.

It all starts with a shared email, video or link. Thanks in advance!

# PROJECT SCOPE

## 12 EPISODES

Each week a brand new episode will be released on the same day (the specific day is still undetermined) and accessible on Youtube.

Each episode will be 5-10 minutes in length and cover different aspects of project as it unfolds.

## APRIL - JUNE

The first week of April will be an important week to tune in. This will give your class an opportunity to participate in the nest box selection.

The full project will run from the first week of April until mid June.

## EXERCISES

Each week an optional class exercise will be included in the update email. The content will relate to the topics from the correlating episode.

In most cases the exercises will be word searches, hidden phrases or other puzzles.



# LAST YEAR'S PROJECT

YEAR ONE

## FIVE SCHOOLS FOLLOWED OUR FIRST PROJECT

### Our First Year Was A Great Success

Last spring for our bluebird project we installed ten brand new nest boxes to accompany our original box. We invited five local schools to join the project and follow our weekly update videos. The results were great! Teachers reported that students loved feeling involved and we enjoyed keeping them connected throughout the bluebird breeding season.

Additionally, we were fortunate to receive attention from local media for the project. As a result of our partnership with Tosorontio Central Public School the project was showcased in the Alliston Herald. In addition, our partnership with Timothy Christian School landed both of us on CTV News Barrie. This turned out to be win-win for everyone involved.

## FEATURE COVERAGE



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## STILL NOT SURE?

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These videos might help you understand our style

### Video Explanation

Kyle puts into words the plans for the 2019 Bluebird Project. This video is great to share with colleagues and others who would benefit from a brief synopsis of the project.



### 2018 Bluebird Project Vlog

Still not sure how a vlog can connect your students with this project? Check out one of our favourites from last year.

P.S. - Our vision for the upcoming project is to enhance the video presentation and focus more upon curriculum relevance. We are going to up the game compared to last year!



## GET READY FOR APRIL

Project brought  
to you by:



Following the project is free of charge. If it is useful for your classroom please consider supporting us (more details later). This will help us cover the cost of our time and equipment.

*Email Sign Up Link*

[click here](#)

*Contact Kyle*

[kyle@notsohollowfarm.ca](mailto:kyle@notsohollowfarm.ca)

*Website*

[www.notsohollowfarm.ca](http://www.notsohollowfarm.ca)