

(Access & Parking cont.)

- Carry out what you carry in - please remove any litter you find during your visit. No littering or dumping.
- The disturbance or removal of any natural material -- plant (entire plant or part of plant), animal, of mineral is prohibited.
- The use of any type of vehicle -- bicycle or motorized -- is prohibited.
- All fires are prohibited.
- Camping, fishing, hunting, and trapping are prohibited.
- No alcoholic beverages or weapons are allowed.
- The fabrication or placing of structures of any kind is prohibited.

### About the Trust

The Cumberland Land Trust is a private, non-profit, charitable organization, established for the benefit of all of the citizens of Cumberland. Its mission is to preserve and protect the natural resources of our Town. Since its founding in 1989, the Trust has acquired many properties totaling over 340 acres.

The Trust is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. Annual memberships and donations allow us to pursue our goals and meet our operational expenses.

As citizens of Cumberland who recognize the value and importance of the work of the Trust, we urge you to join us by becoming a member. Consider joining the Trust today!

### Cumberland Land Trust Membership Form

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_ Protector: \$1,000
- \_\_ Conservator: \$ 750
- \_\_ Benefactor: \$500
- \_\_ Sponsor: \$250
- \_\_ Friend: \$100
- \_\_ Associate: \$50
- \_\_ Family: \$30
- \_\_ Individual: \$20

I would like:

- ( ) To donate to the Stewardship Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- ( ) To volunteer my services in some way.
- ( ) Information on preservation options and tax advantages
- ( ) To donate to the Endowment Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

Your annual dues and donations are fully tax deductible. Please be as generous as you can.

Make checks payable to:

The Cumberland Land Trust  
 PO Box 8011  
 Cumberland, RI 02864

Or pay online at razoo.com. Enter Cumberland Land Trust in the search box.

# The Bluebird Trail And OEEC At High Rock Preserve

Scott Road  
 Cumberland, Rhode Island



Eastern Bluebird



**The Cumberland Land Trust**  
*"Preserving Open Space for Future Generations"*

## Identification.

Eastern Bluebird: 5-7", male bright blue on back, wings, and tail; throat and most of under part orange-rusty; white belly; female paler; back tinged with brown; throat rusty. Member of the Thrush family.

## About the Bluebird.

The gentle and beautiful bluebird was once very common in North America. Today, the number of bluebirds has diminished due to habitat loss, overuse of pesticides, and predators. The bluebird is a beneficial bird eating many harmful insects. Bluebirds cannot excavate their own nest cavities and depend on either natural or manmade cavities for survival. Their natural habitat is being destroyed by man, and other bird species such as wrens, sparrows, and starlings compete aggressively for their nest sites. Bluebirds will readily use manmade nest boxes. This is our only hope of bringing the bluebird back to its original numbers.

## What is a Bluebird Trail?

The **Cumberland Land Trust** has created what is known as a *bluebird trail* to help bring the bluebird back. A *bluebird trail* is a series of bluebird nest boxes built to specific dimensions, spaced about 300 feet apart. Bluebirds prefer woodland edge habitat facing open land, pastures and meadows. Bluebirds are territorial when breeding and will not nest closer than 100 yards from the next box.

Bluebirds like to perch on fence posts or small trees and swoop down to eat insects on the grassy ground. They also enjoy the berries and fruits of dogwood, red cedar, sumac, bayberry, Virginia creeper, and blueberry. Mounting boxes on posts or poles provides the best protection from predators such as raccoons. Nest boxes need to face some tree or shrub within 100 feet so the young may make their initial flight to safety.

## Monitoring the Bluebird Trail.

The most important part of any *bluebird trail* is to monitor the nest boxes. Eastern Bluebirds start looking for breeding nest boxes in March. They will use the nest boxes well into August, producing 2-3 broods per year. The **Cumberland Land Trust** monitors the trail regularly to keep out house sparrows, check on the health and safety of the bluebirds, and record their breeding progress. If you are interested in becoming involved in the monitoring project, please contact:

Dave Gumbley  
Bluebird Monitor  
658-5093

or write:

Cumberland Land Trust  
PO Box 8011  
Cumberland, RI 02864



## What is the OEEC?

The OEEC (Outdoor Environmental Education Center) is a learning area outside the High Rock Preserve with a picnic table and covered kiosk for use as a bulletin board.

The OEEC (Outdoor Environmental Education Center) and preserve are available for use by environmental groups and individuals for educational and research purposes. Use can be arranged by contacting:

Randy Tuomisto

President, Cumberland Land Trust

(401) 334-8322

## Access & Parking:

In order to protect the critical habitat, endangered plants, access will be limited to the **one marked trail site**. Access will be by foot only. Visitor parking is available on Scott Road near the entrance sign.

The site is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk for passive recreational uses. We welcome your visit.

To accomplish our goals for management of this property, please observe the following regulations:

- Walk only on marked and established trails.

*(continued)*