

# Outdoor Recreation

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# Outdoor Education

## Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife Mountain bluebird

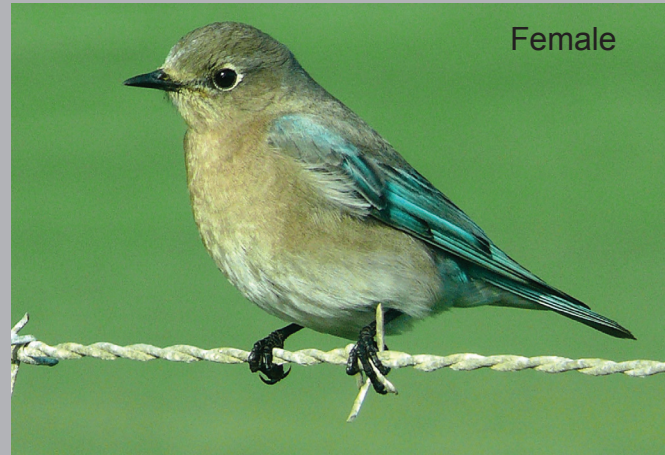
### Mountain bluebird

If you enjoy brilliant sights, then you would savor the way a mountain bluebird looks in the sunlight. The male is particularly colorful, with an azure blue covering from the top of his head to the tip of his tail, and a turquoise-blue underside. Females are mostly gray in color and have blue highlights; they have a white throat and a dusky breast. As the name indicates, mountain bluebirds prefer higher elevations. But in the late fall and winter they wander into open country, even onto the high plains. They live more in the open than other bluebirds of similar size (about seven inches long) such as the blue grosbeak. This summer, look for these birds when you're hiking or sightseeing at about 7,000 feet and above.

Mountain bluebirds nest throughout the forested mountains, from the Black Range to the Colorado line and east to the Sacramento and Capitan ranges. Eggs are laid in May or June in nests made of grass and weed stems, lined with bark and feathers. Mountain bluebirds may nest in flicker holes, in rock crevices, in buildings or in bird houses. The clutch contains four to six pale, greenish-blue eggs.



Male



Female



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

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