

## Portals to Parks



### **Mountain Bluebird**

(Sialia currucoides)







#### **How to Identify:**

- A bird up to 7 inches long.
- Striking sky blue overall except for a variably silver-gray belly.
- Males are brighter in color than females

#### **Habitat:**

- Can be found in the western half of North America
- During the breeding season, they like open areas with a mix of short grasses, shrubs, and trees at elevations above 5000 feet.
- They prefer open rangelands and meadows.
- They use tree cavities created by woodpeckers for nest holes.

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#### **More Fun Facts!**

- During the winter they eat small fruits, seeds and insects when available.
- They nest in natural tree cavities or bird houses.
- They hunt from perches and can hover above the ground when looking for insects.
- The state bird of Idaho.



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#### **Help Protect the Bluebird**

- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides.
- · Support conservation of natural areas for all wildlife.
- Set up nesting boxes
- Populations declined by about 24% between 1966 and 2015, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.

# ACTIVITY TIME

1. On your next visit to an Idaho State Park, check out any bluebird boxes to see if you can find a Mountain Bluebird. Did you see any? Any Western Bluebirds?	
2.	What song has this bird flying over the rainbow?