

Bluebird Nesting Boxes

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Time: It is best to erect the box by the first week of March. Male bluebirds will begin box selection as early as mid-March.

Location: Open mowed fields
120 feet from wooded edge
Boxes 100 yards apart
One box per acre

Placement: Face hole away from prevailing wind
Entrance hole 4–6 feet above the ground
Place within 50 feet of a perch (natural or manmade)

POTENTIAL COMPETITORS

Several other bird species may attempt to utilize your bluebird nesting box. The following will assist you in identifying the species.

Tree Swallow

nesting material: dry grass with feathers
eggs: pure white

Chickadee

nesting material: moss and hair
eggs: dull white with brown spots

House Wren

nesting material: small twigs
eggs: red and brown spots

House Sparrow

nesting material: dried plants with feathers
eggs: dull white with olive spots

NESTING INFORMATION

Dry grasses are the materials most commonly used by bluebirds. Although when made near evergreens, pine needles may be used. Nest building begins in early April. It takes five to fourteen days for bluebirds to complete a nest.

A single egg is laid each day. The eggs are approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $\frac{2}{3}$ " and are normally clear blue. The female incubates the eggs for about 14 days. After hatching, the young will leave the nest in approximately 17 days.

After the young have fledged, remove the used nesting material. Bluebirds nest two to three times a season, building a new nest each time.

Monitor the nesting boxes once a week, between early April and late August.



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