

# 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.

