

Ken Leister's Bluebird Nesting Box



Specifications for a Good Nesting Box

- A box built of wood. (No plywood, treated wood or plastic)
- Adequate ventilation at the top and bottom of each side of the box.
- Floor area of 16 square inches or more.
- Proper size entrance hole (1½ inch diameter) and correct placement to attract nesting bluebirds.
- Box assembled with screws so that replacement parts are easily installed.
- A large roof overhang.
 - a. Keeps box cooler in hot weather.
 - b. With long front overhang keeps rain out regardless of wind direction.
 - c. Helps deter raccoons.
- A roof that overhangs in the back with a support that helps make the box more waterproof.
- If multiple pieces of wood are used to make roof top, tongue and groove construction will help prevent warping.
- Asphalt shingle on top of wood roof may be used as an optional roof covering.
- A grooved "ladder" on the inside front to help chicks feed through the entrance during the last stage of nesting.
- A side opening door that is hinged at the bottom, and opens from the top. This is the best configuration to observe nest without disturbing the chicks.
- A loose fitting door to prevent it from getting stuck if the wood swells from getting wet. Weather strips on door to keep rain out.
- Quick opening door latch (no screws to take out).
- A floor that is recessed to keep it dry.

Placement Instructions

- Place in an open area with short vegetation.
- Face the entrance towards a bush or tree 50 to 75 feet from box.
- Mounting system typically used is a metal pole (electrical conduit) or a metal "U" fence pole.
- Mount approximately 5 feet above ground (easy to monitor). Do not mount on a tree or rail fence due to common predators.
- Use of squirrel guard on pole may be advisable.