

Predator Guard Using Multi-Flora Rose Stems

About six years ago while out monitoring my birdhouses, I saw some nesting material on the roof of one of the houses that had a bluebird with five eggs. It made me sick. A raccoon had gotten to the eggs and nest. You never want to see that happen. We had been wrapping multi-flora rose brambles around all the PVC posts that had a house with bluebird eggs in them. But I had forgotten that one.

Ever since that episode, I've made sure that as soon as that first egg is laid, fresh multi-flora rose gets wrapped around post. We haven't lost anymore bluebirds or eggs to raccoons or cats.

The thorns on the multi-flora rose brambles are long and hooked. We secure the stems to the post with cable ties. Pictured is one of my birdhouses with the predator guard. It works for my birdhouses. Or you could put barbed wire around the post to keep those predators away.

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Preventing box slipping

This is a note in reference to an article on page 8 of Wisconsin Bluebird, Winter 2010. In the article about Not All EMT Straps Are Created Equal by Bob Tamm, I have another simple suggestion to make to keep the bird houses from sliding down the conduit post.

First off, I go to the local well repair man (He loves bluebirds too) and he gives me used 21ft well pipe and I cut them into 7ft pieces. I also use straps to mount the house to the pipe and then simply screw a block of wood to the back of the bird house as a stopper. Even if the straps are loose the house cannot slide down the pipe. On each of my 30 some nests, I have out on my trail, I am using the 7ft pieces of well pipe as posts and the block as a stopper to keep the house from sliding down. Please see the attached picture of one of my houses.

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