



Protecting Habitat

Healthy habitat is the foundation of bluebird conservation. BRAW works with landowners, volunteers, and communities across Wisconsin to create safe nesting opportunities and protect the environments bluebirds depend on.

Nest Box Standards

Bluebirds thrive when nest boxes are built and installed correctly. BRAW recommends:

- **Approved dimensions** that match natural cavity sizes
- **1½-inch entrance hole** to exclude starlings
- **Unpainted, untreated wood** for safe temperature regulation
- **Front-opening design** for easy monitoring
- **Secure mounting** on metal poles, not trees

Downloadable nest box plans are available for anyone who wants to build their own.

Predator Protection

Predators are the biggest threat to nesting bluebirds. Effective protection includes:

- **Pole-mounted predator guards**
- **Baffles** to stop raccoons and snakes
- **Avoiding trees, fences, and structures** predators can climb
- **Proper box height** (4–6 feet) for safety and monitoring

These simple steps dramatically increase nesting success.

Habitat Requirements

Bluebirds prefer open, grassy areas with scattered trees and low vegetation. Ideal locations include:

- Pastures
- Parks
- Large yards
- Nature centers
- Trails and open fields

Boxes should be placed **100–300 feet apart** to reduce competition.



Common Mistakes to Avoid

Resources & Downloads

- Nest box building plans
- Predator guard diagrams
- Habitat placement checklist
- Seasonal maintenance guide

