



Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin



Ideal Placement Locations for Eastern Bluebird Nest Boxes

Your bluebird box placement is crucial to attracting them. Here are some good places:

- Golf courses
- Open subdivisions
- Farm fields and pastures
- Orchards
- Metro parks
- Open cemeteries
- School yards, church yards, and large grassy areas

To increase your chances of attracting bluebirds, follow these guidelines:

1. Place the nest box in an open, grassy area away from trees.
2. Mount the box about 5 -6 feet off the ground on a wooden or metal pole.
3. The nest box entrance hole Should face EAST.
4. Do not place the nest box near dense bushes/shrubs, wooded areas, on a tree, or on a fence.
5. Do not place the nest box in areas where house sparrows are numerous or trees where they may have nests.
6. Place the box at least 50 - 70 feet away from your home and birdfeeders within this range.

Nest Box Spacing:

If you plan to set up more than one nest box:

- Space them 250 to 300 feet apart, as bluebirds are territorial and will compete with each other for a nest box.
- Use your best judgement, for example you can place the boxes closer if they are on opposite sides of a structure such as a home.

Habitat Requirements:

Eastern Bluebird pairs typically need 1.5 to 2 acres of suitable habitat around their nest box in order to have sufficient food supplies. This habitat can include combined areas of your yard and surrounding properties.

Good Bluebird Habitats:

- Large back yards (1 -3 acres) with trees around the perimeter of the property allowing clear inner space to set up a nest box.
- Cemeteries – BRAW has the “Nest-in-Peace” Program promoting nest box placements in cemeteries.
- Retreat Center Property, Seminaries
- Local city or town parks and state parks
- Large office parks
- Open Ranch land area