

Installation of Bluebird Boxes

All bluebird boxes should be on their own post, with a predator guard. They should be placed in wide open spaces, preferably with trees and shrubs nearby for perching, and for their chicks to safely fly to when they fledge.

However, the boxes should be at least **8 feet away** from any tree, limb, power pole, fence, etc., or anything that another animal, like a squirrel, or snake, etc., could leap or climb onto the box.

Bluebirds are very territorial and will not let another bluebird nest within 100 yards of their box. **So boxes should be at least 100 yards apart.**

The pole should be a couple of feet in the ground, with the box being about 5-6 feet off the ground, pretty much at eye level. This allows for easy monitoring and is the height the birds prefer.

The entry hole for the bluebird should be facing either north or east, away from the hot afternoon sun.

Pairing Boxes for Smaller Birds

Smaller native birds, such as Carolina chickadees and brown-headed nuthatches, like to nest in the bluebird boxes and we encourage that. However, if a bluebird wants the box that they are nesting in, it will run off the small bird and evict their chicks and eggs.

Bluebirds will allow a smaller bird to nest nearby if you place another bluebird box, (***with an exclusion device over the opening***), within 33 feet of the nesting bluebird. The reasoning is that the bluebird will try out both boxes and realize it can't enter the one box because the opening is too small, so he will allow the smaller bird to use it. **This is called pairing the boxes.**

How Can Smaller Birds Nest in Bluebird Boxes?

- Bluebirds will not allow another bluebird to nest within 100 yards
- Bluebirds will allow a smaller bird species, such as Carolina chickadees, to nest nearby if two boxes are within 33 feet of each other.
- An exclusion device must be used for the smaller bird



Exclusion Devices

Must be Installed for the Smaller Bird



Pairing Boxes

Helping small bird species survive when nesting next to bluebirds

One box has the normal 1½ in. opening for the bluebird.



The other box has an exclusion device (1 1/8 inches for Carolina chickadee).

