



Eastern Bluebird Nestbox Recommended Features



Feature

- Built of 3/4" or thicker wood
- Ventilation slots (or holes)
- Entrance hole 1-1/2" diameter
- Entrance hole smooth
- Exterior – if painted, light color
- Interior – no paint or stain
- No “perch” below entrance hole
- Floor has drainage holes / cut out corners
- Mounted on smooth pipe / conduit
- Roof overhangs on all sides
- Shaded from intense summer sun
- Depth of nestbox 5-1/2 to 8 inches
- Mounting hardware for House Sparrow trap
- Predator baffle

Why

- Greater insulation from summer heat and greater durability
- Air movement / cooling for summer heat (On a typical nestbox a 1-1/2" slot at the top of each side provides 4-1/2 square inches – as much area for air movement as ten 3/4" holes.)
- Hole size excludes large winged competitors / predators
- Rough, jagged hole damages feathers
- Light color better for heat. Painting really unnecessary and may attract vandals
- Some paints or stains can give off toxic fumes
- Bluebirds don't need perch – perch improves predator access
- Must be well-drained to keep nest from staying wet
- Slick metal post makes it more difficult for predators to climb
- Overhang creates shade and protects from rain
- A source of shade, natural or artificial, can reduce nestbox temperature
- Shallow nestboxes are more accessible to predators. (Depth is measured bottom of entrance hole to top of floor.)
- Allows for quick installation of trap
- Where climbing predators are a concern, a baffle keeps most predators from being able to reach nestbox