



## CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE

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### **Facts About Bluebird Nesting Habitat**

***CWH requests that you only purchase nesting structures if your property has the appropriate habitat.***

1. Bluebirds rarely nest within cities, large towns, or even most suburban areas.
2. They seldom nest in heavily wooded areas but will nest along the edge of woods and in clearings. Bluebirds like open fields with short vegetation and a few scattered trees. A tree or large bush should be within 50-100 feet for the fledglings to land in upon leaving the nest and there should be a tree to the west of the box for afternoon shade.
3. Bluebirds will NOT nest closer than a hundred yards from each other but they will tolerate other species living nearby. Placing boxes closer together can provide nesting for other native birds such as tree swallows, wrens and chickadees.
4. DO NOT place a bluebird box where there is a great deal of foot traffic since too much disturbance will cause them to abandon the box.
5. It is best to face the box toward trees or bushes with low branches that are within 50 feet of the box. The box should face away from the prevailing wind as long as there are good perches nearby. For monitoring and cleaning convenience, mount boxes so they can be easily inspected about 4-5 ft. in height. Predator guards should be placed on the post below the box to prevent snakes and other predators from destroying the nest.
6. NEVER place nesting boxes where pesticides are used since it could not only affect the birds directly but indirectly as well by killing off their food supply.
7. MONITOR your box weekly and DO NOT allow English House Sparrows to reproduce. They will take over bluebird (and other native birds') nests, often destroying eggs or killing nestlings and adults.

***Note: Please be reminded that CWH cannot guarantee your nesting structure will be inhabited by the intended species.***

*Creating and preserving wildlife habitat*