

Keeping Bluebirds Safe

Recognizing the problem of abandoned trails, unmonitored boxes and the ongoing threat they pose for bluebirds. The BBRP are taking down poorly mounted and placed nestboxes across the State of Minneapolis. Through, "Keeping Bluebirds Safe" program, which started in 2008, BBRP members can earn an annual patch in one of the follow ways.

Get Permission to take down 10 nest boxes that are not proper for Bluebird's.

Example: **Poorly Placed**

(1) "Move or remove boxes in trees or close to trees. That is habitat more suitable for house wrens than bluebird's.

(2) Move or remove nest boxes in wetland areas. That is habitat more suitable for house wrens than bluebirds.

(3) Move or remove boxes that are in towns or by livestock farms. That habitat is more suitable for house sparrows than Bluebird's.

Poorly Mounted:

(1) Move or remove boxes that are mounted on trees or wooden post and T post without Raccoon

Unattended Boxes

(1) Move or remove boxes that are not being checked weekly through the nesting season.
Boxes that are still closed from previous winter are probably not being check.

Many times the boxes that were removed can often be repaired and reinstalled in a proper location on a predator resistant pole and with weekly checking fledge lots of Bluebirds.

(2) Work with a 4-H group, scout troop, nature center, or sportsman group that makes boxes and get them on the right track.

If they build bluebird nest boxes, help them with making a commitment to check them weekly and send in an annual report for them. Help them with placement, spacing and proper mounting. If at all possible, get them to build feeders or suet feeders instead.

Anyone interested in participating in the "Keeping Bluebirds Safe" campaign can do so by assisting with one or a number of the activities listed above and submitting the form.

"Nature is NOT putting up boxes for the birds to nest in. Putting up a box is interfering with nature. With that intervention comes responsibility". Nicholas A Zbiciak, Bluebird L 2000.

What can you do to earn these stunning patches from BBRP? Simple! Just follow steps 1 and 2 above, and fill out the simple form at the bottom of this page.

Mail the form to: PO Box 984 Faribault, MN 56021

You will earn your safe Bluebirds patch.