

## MISSION STATEMENT OF LBBS

To take all actions deemed by Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society to be beneficial to the protection, enjoyment and propagation of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) and all native-cavity nesting birds in Louisiana and elsewhere.

To monitor and increase production of Eastern Bluebirds and all native-cavity nesting birds through a statewide nest box program.

To educate or inform the people of Louisiana on the ecology and management of Eastern Bluebirds.

To conduct research on Bluebirds and Bluebird habitat selection.

To cooperate and coordinate with other organizations with purposes similar for charitable educational, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501 © (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

(Note) Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society establishes bluebird trails across the state in suitable habit. LBBS must be assured of monitors for the trails and also asks for the right to inspect the trails and to take the boxes down if they cease to be monitored.

LBBS donates “The Bluebird Monitor’s Guide” to public and school libraries across the state.

LBBS conducts nest box workshops and instructs people on how to monitor their boxes and trails. We give presentations to various groups.

LBBS uses its membership funds to provide for these donations and activities.

If you would like to donate to Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society or become a member, please fill out the form on the backside of our brochure. Your support is appreciated.

## NESTING SCHEDULE

Nest building can take from two to five days to complete. Some birds start a nest and then stop for two weeks or more to resume. Sometimes a “claim straw” is found in the box prior to nest building.

When egg laying begins, one egg is laid daily, in the mornings. Usually 4 or 5 are laid (sometimes three) and the day after or on the day of the last egg laid, incubation usually begins. Occasionally, it is delayed for a few days.

12 to 14 days after incubation begins, eggs are hatched. They do not always hatch the same day. Some hatch two days apart. Sometimes they fledge two days apart.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> day after hatching, it is advised not to open the boxes (unless you are very experienced).

Bluebirds fledge anywhere from 16 to 21 days with days 17 or 18 being the majority of broods fledging.

Clean out the nest box when the fledglings have left the nest because in Louisiana we have three and four nesting cycles for Bluebirds. You can use warm water and a stiff brush to clean out the boxes. Eastern Bluebirds love clean boxes to nest in as studies at Cornell University have shown.

## How to Make and Enjoy Your Own Bluebird Trail



Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society

LBBS Website:

[www.labayoubluebirdsociety.org](http://www.labayoubluebirdsociety.org)

Bluebirds are an asset to farmers and gardeners because their diet consists almost entirely of insects in the spring and summer. In late fall and winter, they live largely on wild berries.

Bluebirders across the nation have provided nest boxes for bluebirds and they are on the rebound.

Bluebird trails not only provide wonderful homes for cavity nesters, they are a great source of pleasure and satisfaction to those who operate them and are also a wonderful educational tool.

Five nest boxes are considered a trail. Backyard blue birders are very important too. Nesting boxes should be placed 100 yards apart, out of sight of each other and located so that they can be monitored regularly and conveniently by going from box to box by car, bike or foot.

To operate a successful bluebird trail it is important to know the characteristics of the bluebird and the problems involved in maintaining a productive trail.

Habitat is important. Bluebirds love open spaces and their boxes should not be placed too close to a tree or bush as other species will compete for the box. Low cut pastures, yards, golf courses and cemeteries or any other well kept properties are excellent places for boxes for bluebirds.

A good water source is a must. If you do not have a natural source of water, provide it by place one or more birdbaths in your yard. Think about water sources when you are establishing a trail.

Boxes can be placed anytime of the year. They need to be out by January for an upcoming nesting season. Bluebirds check out boxes in the fall and they also roost in them in extremely cold weather.

Select a box that is well vented bottom floor and side vents. Deeper boxes are an excellent deterrent to avian predators. Have at least a two inch or better overhang for the roof all the way around the box. 7/8ths inch or better thickness of wood gives more insulation against heat and cold.

Do not put boxes on trees or fence posts because of climbing predators. Do not place boxes northwest, west or southwest because of prevailing winds and sun exposure to entry hole.

Use predator guards on the poles for all climbing predators. Use grease on the poles for ants (it does not deter other climbing predators). Put a band of grease below the predator guard four inches wide because otherwise the ants can piggy-back and get across the grease. Use automotive grease only. The grease also aids in letting you see if any climbing predator has crossed it or tried to cross it to get to the nest box.

It is imperative that nest boxes be monitored at least weekly, or more often if possible. This lets you get to know your predators and how to deal with them. If you have House Sparrows your bluebirds will be in jeopardy. You must learn to use either aggressive or passive control for your bluebirds to be able to raise their young. In fact, any predator is lethal if you do not take the correct measures to control them. You can find information about how to do this at our LBBS website and at [www.nabluebirdsociety.org](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org).

It is a good idea to check the box after a heavy or prolonged rain. The North American Bluebird Society recommends that if you find the nest quite damp or wet change the nest. Remove the nest and nestlings and build a new nest of dried lawn clippings or pine straw and replace the nestlings. You may lose the nestlings with respiratory problems in a wet nest if you don't follow this procedure.

Keeping a record of your monitoring visits helps you know several things about the bluebirds. You will know when the first egg is laid, when the first day of incubation begins (usually after last egg is laid, sometimes next to last) and when to expect them to hatch. Then, you will know NOT to open the box after day 13 because it can cause premature fledging and the babies most likely will not make it because they are not quite big enough to fly very far to land in a tree to be safe from predators.

Keep a rehabber's number handy.

## Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society

A non-profit organization devoted to the conservation of all native cavity-nesting birds.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please copy this form and distribute! This brochure may be downloaded from our website: [www.labayoubluebirdsociety.org](http://www.labayoubluebirdsociety.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership  Renewal

Your cancelled check will be your receipt. To save money, receipts are not issued unless specified. Please ask if your company or your spouse's company has a matching gifts program to augment your contribution. Inquiries for information concerning matching gifts may usually be made at the company's benefits office.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual              | \$7.50  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime                | 250.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business          | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation             | 100.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation                | \$_____ |

Please make your check payable to LBBS and mail to:

**LBBS**  
1222 Cook Rd  
Delhi, LA 71233

**LBBS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.**

**Thank you for your support!**

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