

## *Troyer's Sparrow-resistant Bluebird House and Pole*

Bluebirds are territorial, they protect a radius of 150' so, place your house(s) 300' apart, in an open location, not too close to trees. Once the bluebird babies are 7 to 10 days old you can change the nest to keep it parasite free. Dried lawn clippings work great for nest replacement material.

**Step 1)** Make sure the large hole (used for mounting the house to the pole) is at the top of the pole. Pound the post about 18" into the ground.



**Step 2)** Installing the pole guard. Begin by fastening the clamp onto the pole. Slide the clamp over the top of pole and stop around 16" from the top of the pole down. Tighten the clamp's bolt.



**Step 3)** Attaching the cap to the pole guard. Get your pole guard tube and place either end on the ground. There is a small screw inserted into the cap. Back this screw out till you can slip the cap onto the pole guard tube. Tighten the screw back into the tube. Slip the entire pole guard down the pole, inserting the hole in the pole guards cap thru the pole. It will rest upon on the clamp you installed in step 2.



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VERY IMPORTANT! The pole guard dangles from the clamp, thus allowing the pole guard to wobble. This wobbling action has been proven to deter raccoons.

**Step 4)** Attaching the house to the pole: Open the house by pulling the two pins out (one at each side of the house). There is a carriage bolt with washer inside the BB house. You will insert the carriage bolt from inside the house out. At the bottom of the house is an aluminum u-bracket screwed onto the house. Align the u-bracket so the pole can slip thru it then slide the entire house down the pole till the bolt meets the hole in the aluminum pole. Insert the bolt into the hole, then placing the washer and then the wing nut and finger tighten it.



**Step 5)** Place your wooden nest tray inside the house at the bottom. The nest tray fits only one way, so if you close the door and it doesn't shut, rotate the tray till it does. Add a small handful of sawdust into the nest bowl of the tray (sawdust is not a must but the bluebirds really love it).

**Step 6)** Replace your pins that hold the door in place.



## The Bluebirder's TEN COMMANDMENTS

- I.** Place houses at least 300 feet apart, because bluebirds are territorial.
- II.** Keep the bluebird houses in open habitat. It's the environment they prefer.
- III.** Control the House Sparrow, or it will eliminate the bluebird and Tree Swallow.
- IV.** Add a second bluebird house 21 feet (7 paces) from the first house, at every 300-foot setting. This will allow the valuable Tree Swallow to also nest on your bluebird trail.
- V.** Control the most threatening parasite, the blowfly larva.  
If you don't, you may end up fledging very few, if any, baby birds. Change their nests when babies are from seven to 10-days old (only one change per brood needed.)
- VI.** Attach a predator guard to your bluebird houses. This will protect the bluebirds from their predators and other enemies.
- VII.** Avoid handling the bluebird and/or Tree Swallow young after they are 14 days or older. They may fledge prematurely, which could cause their death.
- VIII.** Monitor your bluebird trail at least once every week.
- IX.** Remove the old bluebird and/or Tree Swallow nests on your first nest check after the young have fledged.
- X.** Keep accurate field records. This is the first step toward achieving greater success on your bluebird trail.

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BRING BACK THE BLUEBIRDS

\* The above is a sample of what you'll find in the delightful bluebird booklet  
\*Bring Back the Bluebirds-Even on YOUR Hand\* (see page 45). \*