To help bluebird reproduction, as well as that of other cavity-nesting songbirds, erect nesting boxes in areas where other habitat requirements are met. This “one board” bluebird nest box is easy to construct and erect.

**MATERIALS**

- One 1”x6”, at least 52” long
- 10-15 exterior-grade screws, 1”
- Three small nails (used as hinges for pivoting door)

**Recommended Tools:**

- Table saw or handsaw
- Variable-speed reversing drill
- Drill bit (slightly larger than your nails)
- Screwdriver bit for drill
- 1½” spade bit for drill
- Tape measure

**THE HOUSE**

1. Cut the board to the measurements above and drill the 1½” entrance hole using the spade bit.

2. Screw the walls, floor, and roof together, leaving one of the side walls unattached. This will be the door to clean the house.

3. Drill three holes (two in the front, one in the back) through the front and back walls and into the side of the door. Insert two nails in the top as pivot nails, one in the bottom to hold the side door closed.

4. Fasten house to a 5'-6' pole with metal tie straps. Erect so that house is 4'-5' above the ground.

**THE BAFFLES**

Baffles are important because they keep predators from invading your bluebird nest. Pick from the following and install below the house.

**Aluminum Cone** (inhibits raccoons, snakes and other predators) Cut a piece of aluminum to the circular dimensions on the next page, wrap around the pole and fasten ends with ¾” round head sheet metal screws. Fasten to pole with a post clamp.
**PVC** (inhibits raccoons, snakes and other predators) Cut a piece of 4” PVC to a length of 24” and attach a PVC cap using a bead of sealant. Cut a hole in the center of the cap, attach a stop using a pipe clamp and scrap wood chunk, then slide over the pipe. This baffle should wobble back and forth on the pipe as prey attempt to climb.

**2-Liter Bottle Top** (Used only in the south to inhibit fire ants) Cut the top off of a 2-liter bottle and slide over the pole. Make sure there are no gaps between the plastic and the pole that ants can squeeze through. Use electrical or duct tape to seal any gaps and secure to pole.

**Note:** We recommend using either the aluminum or the PVC baffle, not both. In the south, add the 2-liter bottle top baffle to the bottom of the pole to prevent fire ant infestation.