

Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society

Developing a Nest Box Protocol

To be distributed to nature related organizations so that when an individual or group asks that organization for advice they can give them this protocol.

1. Plan all phases of the project before starting.
2. Decide on a target species and learn all about that species before starting.
3. Determine nest box locations
4. Determine what kind of predator protection will be used.
5. Decide who will monitor the nest boxes.
6. Decide who will keep the records.
7. If boxes are to be located in areas with high House Sparrow populations, decide how this risk will be mitigated.
8. Decide how many nest boxes to build.
9. It is best to start small with a few nest boxes and do it properly. More can be added the following year.
10. If the nest boxes are to be erected on private property always seek permission from the land owner before starting.
11. OEBS will not endorse any nest box trail that does not have adequate predator protection.
12. Never put boxes on fence posts or trees- these are just highways for predators. Always on free standing metal poles or t-bars.

Contact the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society through our website oebs.ca - or have a look at our newsletters and nest box video.