

Bluebird Certificate

You can be a certified bluebirder!

A bluebird certificate of appreciation will be sent to bluebirders who place and monitor a nest box, then complete and return a Bluebird Box Nest Record Form. Forms will be available from the Commission's Urban Wildlife Section. The information submitted by blue-

birders will supply estimates on bluebird nesting attempts, successes and population levels in the state. Write the Endangered, Nongame and Urban Wildlife Section, AGFC, Route 1, Box 188-A, Humphrey, AR 72073.

- 1) Entrance hole should be 1 1/2 inches. This makes it starling-proof.
- 2) Be sure to allow for ventilation (top) and drainage (bottom).
- 3) Keep in mind how you are going to mount the box.
- 4) Be sure to use a predator guard.
- 5) The boxes should be in place by the first week of March.
- 6) Select good habitat — open area with scattered trees and low or sparse grassy ground cover.
- 7) Avoid brushy and heavily wooded areas.
- 8) Place box away from buildings (100 yards). This discourages house sparrow usage.
- 9) Place box so the opening faces a tree, no closer than 100 feet. The young can fly to the tree when they first leave the nest.
- 10) Place box 4-6 feet above the ground.
- 11) Monitor the box every week during the nesting season (April through August).
- 12) Nest should be removed as soon as brood leaves. This allows another brood to be raised.
- 13) Inspect box in winter. Clean and repair.

