

NESTBOX LOCATIONS

per the California Bluebird Recovery Program and San Diego Bluebird Recovery Program website:

¹ <http://cbrp.org/SDBluebirds/nestboxes.htm>

Western Bluebirds are attracted to habitat such as open forests, parklands with scattered oaks or pine trees, orchards where there is no pesticide spraying, or large mowed lawns with mature trees. They also do well in urban parks, golf courses, and even cemeteries. These open areas with low vegetation allow them to easily see and hunt insects. Location is important. Place boxes in open spaces with scattered trees. If you put up a nestbox in an area of dry or dense shrubbery and trees, you will get wrens, flycatchers and titmice, not bluebirds. Also avoid placing boxes in areas where aggressive non-native House Sparrows are present.

Ideally, the nestbox should have some trees or shrubs nearby to provide perches from which to hunt, and for the young to fly to when they are ready to fledge. The entrance of the nestbox should face away from prevailing winds and rain. In San Diego County, California the opening is best oriented north-east to south-east. And placing a box in the shade or partial shade of a tree helps reduce the temperature inside the box during the hot summer months.

When breeding, Western Bluebirds have territories of about 3 acres and will protect and defend them from other bluebirds. Western Bluebirds do not usually allow other bluebirds to nest within about 300 yards, so space nestboxes accordingly. To reduce territorial fighting, it is better to space nestboxes farther apart than too close together; and place them so that the occupants can't see one another.

LEGEND

1 acre = 4840 square yard (sq yd)

Approximation: 100 yd X 50 yd = 5000 sq yd

Typically, an acre of one hole on a championship-golf course (from tee to green) is 400 yd. X 50 yd., or 4 acres.