Mount nesting boxes by mid-March, with the base of the box about 4 to 5 feet above the ground.

Do not change the size of the entrance: 1 1/2 inches is correct for bluebirds.

If you paint or stain the box, use a light color only on the outside of the box.

A bluebird box should never have a perch. Sparrows and wrens are attracted to perches.

Bluebirds prefer large lawns with short grasses because they feed primarily on insects found on the ground.

Try to place boxes at least 100 feet away from woods or thick brush.

To help eliminate competition from tree swallows, locate two boxes about 5 feet apart.

Thanks to Associate Professor Kevin Berner in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at SUNY Cobleskill for his help with this plan.