

Hornaday Award Project Summary

Project Category: Fish and Wildlife Management

Bluebird Nest Boxes

Plan: In my project I will arrange for ten bluebird boxes to be built and set up at Ben Delatour Scout Ranch (B.D.S.R). I will gather a group of volunteers from my troop to help be with my project. I will also need to arrange for materials for the project to be donated. I need to get permission from B.D.S.R to place the birdhouses on the ranch. The boxes would be placed along a fence that bordered the ranch. Over the course of two years I will record information about the birds that inhabited the nests. This research included egg survival and fledgling success. I will then take the information I have gathered and send it to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Nest Watch program. For this project I will need to recruit volunteers to help build and mount the boxes.

This project will help the bluebirds in the area by making up for the loss of nesting cavities from recent forest management efforts. Bluebirds have always been a part of the ecosystem and with this project I am assuring that they have a nest in the future. The houses will keep many generations of birds safe and ensure a success. With the birds safe the camp will be ensured with a population of bluebirds.

Leadership: I recruited eleven Boy Scouts and adult leaders to help me with this project. I recruited the Boy Scouts from my troop. I arranged for the volunteers to help build and mount the birdhouses. I called Cedar Supply and asked them to donate twenty cedar boards for my project. Cedar Supply was very willing to help with my project. I arranged for the volunteers to help me build the houses and install them at B.D.S.R.

Result: During my project I created ten new nest areas for bluebirds. The bluebirds will be able to use these nests for many years to come. The nests will be able to withstand the weather in the area for many years. It will provide a safe alternative to trees for the bluebirds. With a safe nesting area the birds will not have to move to find a safe place to stay. This project will ensure BDSR will always have a bluebird population. In my project I helped fledge over 15 bluebirds. These bluebirds will always have a safe nesting area to come back to in the future. I have contributed the Nest Watch program.

Date Completed: 06/23/2010

Number of People Involved: 14

