

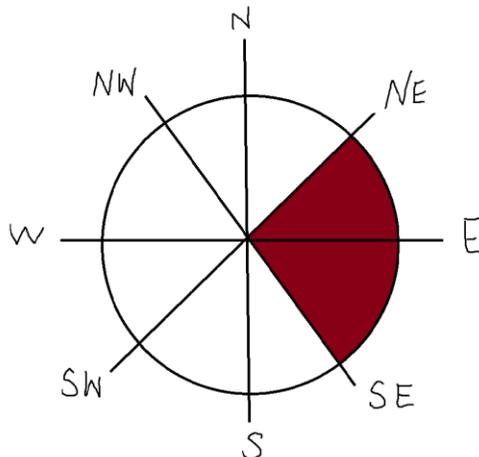
Bat and Bird House Placement Guidelines and Care & Maintenance

Bat Boxes/Houses (building mounted)

- Building mounted bat houses maintain thermal stability better than pole-mounted houses, and are thus more likely to attract bats
- Mount on the south or east side of building to maximize sunshine hours
- 12 to 20 feet off the ground (too much lower and it will be less attractive to the bats, as well as making them more vulnerable to predators)
- In northern climates, it is important to stain or paint the bat house a dark colour to help increase heat retention
 - o Note: Do not paint the screen that you staple onto the house that acts as the landing pad
- You do not need to clean or maintain bat houses
- To know if your bat house is being used, look for white droppings underneath the house, or peek underneath with a flashlight to look for roosting bats.
- Do not get discouraged if your bat house is not used for 1 or 2 years, it can take a while for bats to find them!
- When your bat houses are active, consider registering your bat house at www.batwatch.ca to help scientists keep track of where bats are!

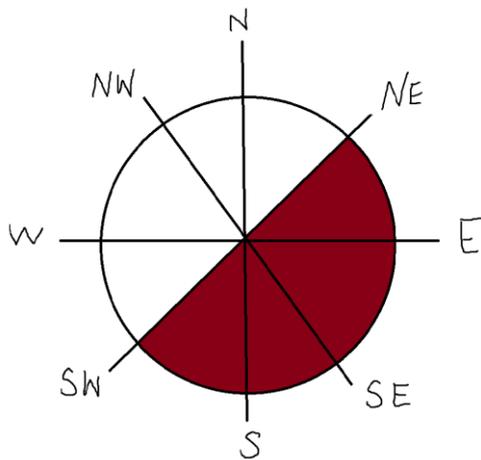
Mountain Bluebird

- Install nest box at a minimum height of 4-6 ft
- Install nest boxes a minimum of 300 ft apart (for other use by other bluebirds)
- Drill the entrance hole facing northeast to southeast (see diagram below); preference would be east, north, south, then west, if only using cardinal directions
- Face entrance hole towards open field or area (or place box in open area)
- Boxes do not have to be painted or stained, but if not painted or stained, they will turn grey after their first winter (cedar is a good choice of wood to help prevent this)
- Instead of using a bent nail to keep the door closed as suggested in some building plans, install a hook so that the clever paws of predators cannot get the door open.



Tree Swallow

- Install nest box at a minimum height of 5-6 ft
- Install nest box a minimum of 35 ft apart (for use by other tree swallows)
- Drill the entrance hole facing northeast to southwest (see diagram below); preference is east
- Place box in open area near water
- Boxes do not have to be painted or stained, but if not painted or stained, they will turn grey after their first winter (cedar is a good choice of wood to help prevent this)
- Instead of using a bent nail to keep the door closed as suggested in some building plans, install a hook so that the clever paws of predators cannot get the door open.



Competition!

Both Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds will use nest boxes mounted on fence posts. If you want to make more nesting options, place boxes 20-25 ft apart – this way one box could be occupied by Tree Swallows, while the other one is used by Mountain Bluebirds. Also, don't be surprised if you get other species using your nest boxes. House Wrens are a likely candidate and are nice, busy little birds to have around. Also, if boxes are placed near buildings and human habitation, expect competition from House Sparrows (which will 'kick out' any swallows or bluebirds, as well as potentially destroying their nests and even killing adult birds). Nest boxes placed in rural areas, far from human habitation, will likely not need to worry about House Sparrow competition.