OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of the OBS Grant is to provide funding for projects that **_create or improve nesting habitat for Ohio's native cavity nesting bird species_**. Typically, this will involve building and installing new nest boxes or replacing worn/damaged nest boxes. However, OBS will consider applications that find other ways to create or improve nesting habitat for these target species.

Examples of projects that OBS may support include:

- Building and installing bluebird/kestrel/owl/etc. nest boxes, with predator guards, in appropriate habitat.
- Establishing nest box trail and curricula at a school.
- Incorporation of in-box nest cameras into an educational program.
- Improving bluebird habitat by replacing invasive plants with native fruiting shrubs to provide winter food resources.
- Developing local conservation partnership focused on nesting habitat for native bird species.

GRANT DETAILS:

Application materials can be found on the OBS website. The application can be filled out online or downloaded and returned via mail or email (see below for contact information).

Grant applications will be accepted throughout the year and awards will be announced every two months. OBS will award multiple grants per year, with a maximum of $500 per individual project. Grants will only be awarded to new or ongoing projects; funds will not be awarded retroactively.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE GRANT APPLICATION:

1. Primary Contact(s): In this section you will provide contact information for the primary contact(s) for the project. This is the person or people who will be the project leader and/or primary contact between the project and OBS.

2. Project Description and Goal: In this section you will provide a description of the goals of your project and more details on how you will accomplish that goal. This should include details on location, habitat, number of nest boxes, how they will be installed and any other information that will help OBS understand the project. You should also explain how funding from OBS will be used.

3. Prior Experience: In this section you will describe any prior experience you have with the focal species or other cavity nesting species. You should also describe any communications you have had with groups or individuals that would be consider experts (e.g. OBS). This will help OBS understand your level of knowledge/understanding related to conservation efforts for the target species.

4. Project Timeline: In this section you will provide an outline or description of when each stage of the project is expected to be completed. This should include (as appropriate) planning phase, construction phase, installation phase, and when monitoring will begin. Ideally, installation will be completed before the nesting season begins.

5. Nest box design: Before funding any project, OBS would like to see and approve the nest box design and pole you plan to use. You can share this information either with a website link if you are purchasing

boxes or with construction plans if you intend to build your own. Construction plans can be submitted as a separate document attached to the application form. PLEASE NOTE – OBS may be able to supply pre-built nest boxes as part of the grant award. If so, we will contact you to discuss how this affects your funding request.

6. Predator baffle style: OBS requires effective predator management for all funded projects. You can submit a website link if you plan to purchase predator guards or construction plans if you intend to build your own. Construction plans can be submitted as a separate document attached to the application form.

7. Project Budget: In this section you will provide a detailed description of the budget for your project. This should include the total cost of your project, any other funding sources or donated materials that you have received, an itemized budget, the specific amount you are requesting from OBS and how it will be used. The itemized budget can be a separate document attached to the grant application.

8. Monitoring Protocol: Regular monitoring of nest boxes is important to the success of cavity nesting species and is required for any OBS-funded project. In this section you will describe the monitoring protocol for your project. This should include timing, data to be collected, who will do the monitoring, training for monitors and how you plan to maintain long-term monitoring in the future.

REPORTING:

OBS requires grant recipients to submit the following reports:

1. Post-installation report: A short report describing how OBS funds were used, to be submitted once installation phase of the project is complete
2. First Season Nesting Report: A report describing the monitoring process and nesting activity during the first full nesting season.
3. OBS also requires that annual Fledgling Reports are submitted to OBS at the end of each season (forms available on the OBS website) and data are submitted to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch program (OBS can provide guidance on NestWatch if needed).

Applications can be submitted via the website or can be mailed or email to OBS:

Mailing address: Ohio Bluebird Society
                        The Holden Arboretum
                        9500 Sperry Rd
                        Kirtland, OH 44094

Email address: ohiobluebirdsociety@gmail.com

If you have any questions about the grant or the application process, please email them to: ohiobluebirdsociety@gmail.com

OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATION FORM

See *OBS Grant Application Instructions* for details on how to fill out and submit this application.

1. Primary Contact(s): Please provide name, email and phone number for the project leader(s).

Name:
Email:
Phone#:
County where project will occur:

2. Project Description and Goal: Please describe the project, your goals for the project and how funding from OBS could help accomplish that goal.

3. Prior Experience: Please describe any prior experience you have had with the target species, including communications you may have had with experts, such as the Ohio Bluebird Society, that may have provided guidance.

4. Project Timeline: Please provide a timeline of the project showing expected deadlines for planning, construction and installation and the final completion date.

5. Nest box design: submit plans/detailed description of nest box and pole to be used. Plans can be submitted as separate page(s) with this application form. NOTE: nest boxes may be available from OBS as part of the grant award.

6. Predator baffle style: submit detailed description or plans of predator baffle to be used. Plans can be submitted as separate page(s) with this application form.

7. Project Budget: Please provide budget details including total project cost, other funding sources and amount requested from OBS. Submit an itemized budget as separate page(s).

> Total Project Cost:
> Other Funding Sources and amount:
> > a.
> > b.
> > c.
> Amount Requested from OBS:

8. Monitoring Protocol: describe how the nest boxes will be monitored, including monitoring schedule, who will monitor nest boxes, what data will be collected, long-term plan for continuity of monitoring.

9. Reporting: OBS requires grant recipients to submit the following reports:

1. Post-installation report: A short report describing how OBS funds were used, to be submitted once installation phase of the project is complete
2. First Season Nesting Report: A report describing the monitoring process and nesting activity during the first full nesting season.
3. OBS also requires that annual Fledgling Reports are submitted to OBS at the end of each season (forms available on the OBS website) and data are submitted to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch program (OBS can provide guidance on NestWatch if needed).

If you have any questions about the grant or the application process, please email them to: ohiobluebirdsociety@gmail.com

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