



# HOLE NOTES

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FACTS YOUR FOLKS DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE TREES

## Gems of Blue

By John G. Hauser

The Bluebird Recovery Program (BBRP) of Minnesota has been working with Minnesota Golf Courses for several years now. The big impetus behind this movement is the general belief that Golf Courses have ideal habitat for Bluebirds. This writer has visited nearly 2-dozen Golf Courses in the State mostly in the Twin Cities. Because of the Audubon International Certification program, many Golf Courses are already involved with bluebirds and have a bluebird trail or at least some bluebird boxes. But too often problems exist. Often bluebird trails are started with good intentions, and little or minimum knowledge about how to properly set up, monitor, and maintain a bluebird trail. Bluebirding is not for everyone, but if your Golf Course is interested in maintaining a bluebird trail, BBRP wants you to be successful and we are here to help in any way we can. We encourage Golf Courses to become "Supportive Members" of BBRP. In that way they will be well informed and have access to all the tools, equipment, and information necessary to fledge bluebirds.

**Some of the Services BBRP has to Offer are:** Initial inspection and evaluation of your golf course to fledge bluebirds; determine number of boxes to install on trail based on acreage and habitat; suggest specific site and orientation of each box on your trail; pro-



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vide list of low cost box suppliers; provide important information about proper mounting of boxes; help train an employee on proper monitoring and provide a monitoring book; assist in the control of house sparrows and other predators; County coordinator available for consultation and assistance in your area; provide several plans to make your own bluebird boxes; free Annual Bluebird Conference with expert speakers and exhibits; berry bush seedlings are available each spring at low cost; wealth of literature including a quarterly Newsletter and our own book "Bluebird Trails."

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