

Woodpecker Habitat Project

Dale Moody, Iowa County Coordinator

Doris and I actively monitor 88 bluebird houses on our Iowa Co. property and have been doing so for several years. (We also monitor 10 houses on property in LaFayette Co. that was developed w/USFWS Partners Program). We are active in BRAW and serve as Co. Coordinators for Iowa Co. We keep quite extensive records of bluebirds as well as other songbird species and submit survey summaries to BRAW at the end of each nesting season.

While attending this years annual meeting at the Kickapoo Reserve on Sept. 19, we heard Rick King, the refuge biologist at Necedah speak on "The Restoration of Red-headed Woodpeckers at NNWR." Among other things, his data showed that Red Headed woodpeckers plus other songbirds including bluebirds density increased with successive burns in the project area. My observation on

Year	Total BB Fledged	BB Fledged/house	BB #70-#75	BB F/H #70-75
2009	276	3.1	36	7.2
2008	258	2.9	33	6.6
2007 +	334	3.8	36	7.2
2006	263	3.0	27	5.4
2005	210	2.4	22	4.4

2002	161	1.8	NA	NA

our property was that the 5 BB houses located at the base of the proposed project area were some of our most productive houses (#70-#75). The lower part of this project was cleared as part of a WHIP project 8-10 years ago (est.) (Andy Walsh-NRCS, Iowa Co.). We had been burning the lower part of this project and started burning both the prairie and the woods 4-5 years ago to try to control re-sprout of buckthorn and autumn olive that we had cleared from most of the area. I dug a bit deeper into our

data and compiled the following.

Bluebird productivity at 3 fledging/house is "good" but 5 or more is considered excellent. The habitat for houses #71-75 must really be excellent.

+Trappers took lots of raccoons and opossum during the fall of 2006 and we had minimum predator raiding of houses in 2007.

++We monitor for other songbirds but since they did not use the 5 houses at the base of the project area, I did not include them in the stats.