



## New Membership and Free Nesting Box Program Update

March 18, 2021

Hello Friends of the Blues!

For 35 years, the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) has worked to reach and maintain a healthy population of Eastern Bluebirds in our state. This is our primary goal period. That said, we have seen a significant 40% decline in our reported bluebird fledging over the last 7 years.

The reason for the decline is because of several factors. One has been early spring weather of recent years, but the other is more alarming. Our volunteer monitors are declining precipitously due to aging with some of our dedicated people that have been working the task of weekly monitoring during the bluebird nesting season for over 30 years. One of our county coordinator is in her 90's. Efforts have failed to replace them with fewer people willing to step forward. Many of our best bluebird nesting trails are now abandoned.

The BRAW Board of Directors has recently developed and implemented several programs to reverse this trend. The latest being the offering of free nesting boxes to new members. Due to what we see as a lack of interest, this program was created to be ambitious. **To our surprise, it has realized a far greater interest than anticipated.**

As a result, we are not able to supply the unexpected demand. We have been forced to temporarily halt this program in order to catch up. BRAW is not a business for we are all volunteers! If we can secure enough nesting boxes, we plan to reopen the program.

Please be patient for we intend to meet the current requests.

We are prepared to refund any memberships upon request.

Thanks for your support,

Steve Sample  
President  
Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin