

Fall, 2022  
Vol. 37, No. 3



# Wisconsin Bluebird

Newsletter of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

BRAW is an affiliate member of the North American Bluebird Society (NABS), founded by Lawrence Zeleny.

## BRAW Convention: September 10!

See Page 3



**BRAW**  
**Photo Contest**  
See page 5

© Patrick Ready

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# President's Report

It feels like it has been forever since we have met as a dedicated group at a gathering such as planned in Green Bay September 10th. Covid seems to want to last forever and it was hoped that it would be subsided by this time. We need to have this event for we have been isolated too long! I can't wait to see you all! Speaking of convention - Madison Audubon has contributed the funds for lanyards holding name tags. These you'll be able to take home. Madison Audubon is an important support for our cause.



With my tenure in BRAW, I have not seen as much activity with our organization as we see at this time. Thanks to the entire Board of Directors for supporting the "Nest in Peace" program via the Carol McDaniel Legacy Fund. (this lady was something else! And you need to go to our website to really appreciate her legacy). Roy Cram, Jr. Bluebird Restoration Fund is helping to support our County Coordinators and related activities. Speaking of county coordinators, they are among the best frontline supporters and our unsung heroes to our bluebird nesting successes. That said, all of our members and monitors are bluebird

super heroes! Does that mean we should have a big blue "B" on our shirts? No! Also, we can't leap tall buildings in a single bound or are we more powerful than a locomotive! If you know where that came from you are old!

Our organization has a huge debt to Dan Schroeder for his tenure as Treasurer for the last six years. He will, thankfully, remain on the Board of Directors. We need to welcome our new Treasurer, Joanie Haugen from Black Earth Wisconsin. She joined us not knowing of our convention and she will not be attending due to previous commitments. We appreciate her taking us on as our chief financial person! Welcome Joanie!

One last thing, speaking of the Carol McDaniel Fund, this fund supports bluebird nesting boxes at no cost with the stipulation that they are mounted and the GPS location is recorded (or the closest road intersection is provided to me and I will generate the GPS location). If you order early, we will have your boxes at the convention for you to pick up. These boxes include predator guards.

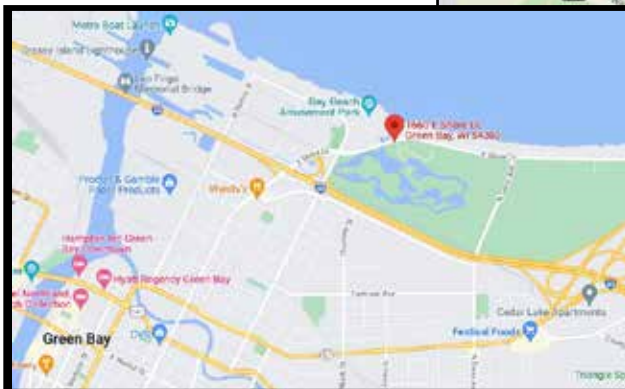
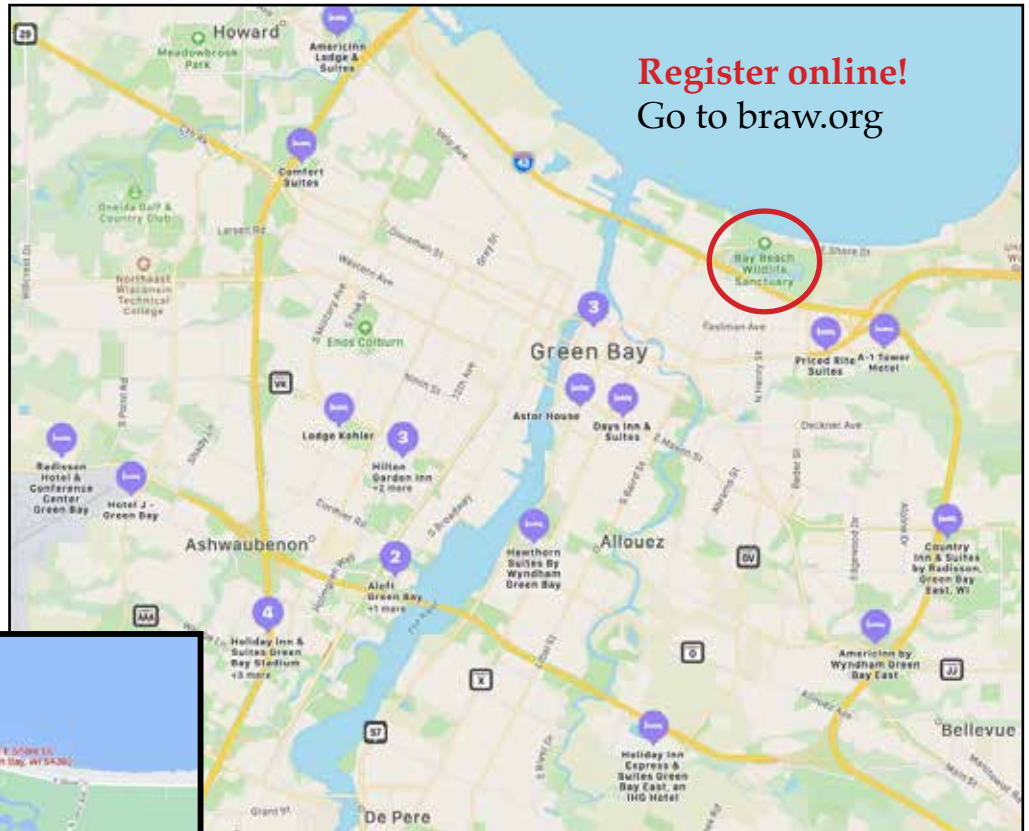
Let's all hope for a successful year with bluebird fledgling numbers. "Restoration" now has a very significant meaning due to the significant decline of bluebird population in this state in the last few years. Keep the faith!

Steve  
President

## BRAW Convention 2022

These maps show the location of Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary at 1660 E. Shore Dr., Green Bay.

The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary is a beautiful 600-acre urban wildlife refuge featuring live animal exhibits, educational displays, miles of hiking/skiing trails and various wildlife viewing opportunities. It is the largest park in the Green Bay Park system and home to the second largest wildlife rehabilitation program in Wisconsin, caring for more than 6,000 orphaned and injured animals annually.



Several area motels and hotels are shown on the map for those needing to stay overnight. Unfortunately we were not able to reserve blocks of rooms from any places but we did try! Use AARP or AAA discounts etc.



## Program for 2022 BRAW Annual Convention

**8:00-9:00 Registration**

**9:00-9:15 Welcome:** Steve Sample, President

**9:15- 9:30 Report on House Sparrow Skylight project:** Dr. Mamuna Khan

**9:30-10:15 Attracting Eastern Bluebirds & Other Cavity Nesters:** Patrick Ready

**10:15-10:45 Bluebird Q & A**

**10:45-11:45 Purple Martins:** Dick Nicolai, DNR retired

**11:45-1:00 Lunch!** (Pre-paid only)

**1:00-1:15 Silent Auction winners:** (Auction to be over at 1 p.m.)

**1:15-2:15 The Migration of Birds** by Bill Volkert, retired DNR Naturalist & author

**2:15 - 2:45 Closing & clean up**

### SILENT AUCTION

Are you creative with sewing, painting, woodworking, photography or other crafts? Use your imagination for the silent auction. It doesn't need to be bluebird related.

Help support BRAW with your donation or plan to buy an item and support BRAW bluebird trail development.



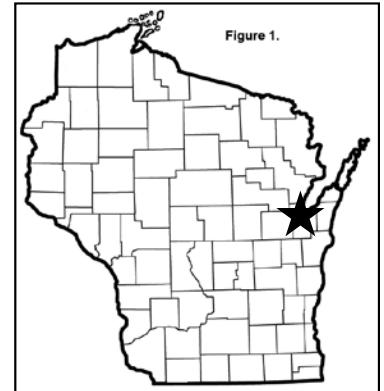
## Register for the BRAW Convention, September 10, 2022

The BRAW Annual Convention will be held on Saturday, September 10 at Bay Beach Wildlife, Green Bay WI.

### Conference fees:

\$5.00: Registration without lunch per person

\$10.00: Includes registration & lunch per person



**Lunch:** Choice of ham & cheese or turkey & cheese on whole wheat or white bread (indicate preference); potato salad, dessert bar – cost \$10 prepaid. If registering for more than one person, please indicate food choice for each person. Vegetarian available upon request.

**Registration is paid in advance.** Deadline: September 6. Please include name/address of each person registering.

Mail check payment to:

**BRAW**  
N4028 Morgan Drive,  
Waupaca, WI 54981

**Save a stamp. Register online!**

Go to [braw.org](http://braw.org)  
Scroll down below convention info.



### ANNUAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Please indicate the number of lunches for your party at \$10 each: \_\_\_\_\_. **Include check for full amount.**

Ham  Turkey  White bread  Wheat bread

Vegetarian  registration only (\$5) no lunch

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Return form with payment (to BRAW) by September 6 to:

**BRAW c/o Dan Schroeder**  
N4028 Morgan Drive,  
Waupaca, WI 54981

**Register online!**

Go to [braw.org](http://braw.org)

# Speakers for the BRAW State Convention

Here is the line-up we have scheduled.

## Attracting Eastern Bluebirds and Other Cavity Nesters: Patrick Ready



This program will cover what you need to do to attract Eastern Bluebirds to your yard, parks or farms, etc. Type of habitat, nest boxes, location of boxes and how to monitor nest boxes and keep records will be covered.

Nest boxes do attract other cavity nesters like chickadees, tree swallows and house wrens and these species will also be covered briefly. Problems you might have to deal with on the bluebird trail will also be discussed.

Patrick got interested in bluebirds when he lived in Stoughton and was asked to take over the bluebird trail at Lake Kegonsa State Park. That was over 20 years ago and he now manages 9 trails in Dane Co. He has fledged over 1,000 bluebirds from his trails. In 2004 he joined the board of directors of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin. He has been the editor of their newsletter *Wisconsin Bluebird* since then, as well.

From 2014 to 2020 he was president of BRAW and continues as a director today. He and his wife Deb live on the west side of Madison enjoying retirement by keeping busy doing fun stuff!

## Purple Martins! by Dick Nikolai



Dick is a past President (1989 & 1990) and Board member (1986-1990) of BRAW and one of its founding members (1986). He has been conducting ongoing research since 1985 on purple martins in Wisconsin. (Site fidelity, cavity fidelity, longevity, pair fidelity, reproduction, weight, physical traits, types of housing success, impacts of weather on weight, etc.) From 2018-2021 he placed color bands for finding dispersion and the public's reporting. Began placing GPS Geolocators on purple martins in 2019 in Wisconsin with future continuance trying to understand the international component of these important migrants. He writes articles relating to information collected and does stories with news media on Purple Martins.

## Featured speaker: Bill Volkert

Bill worked as the naturalist and wildlife educator for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Horicon Marsh for 27 years, where he conducted more than 3,700 education programs for over 220,000 people. Bill has been watching and studying birds for over 40 years and in his travels has sighted nearly 4,000 species (more than 1/3 of the world's birds). To facilitate his studies he is also a federally licensed master bird bander, with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey. Bill shares his experiences and understanding of the natural world through lectures, presentations, field trips and the media. He has been a regular guest on Wisconsin Public Radio for more than 30 years to talk about Wisconsin birds

## The Migration of Birds

One of the most fascinating aspects of the lives of birds is their ability to migrate thousands of miles as they follow the changing seasons. This presentation will explore the annual migration of birds, their seasonal phenology, and explore recent studies that are revealing more information and instilling greater wonder over the phenomenon of bird migration.

Birds not only come and go with the seasons but they do so in the same order every year. This program will provide an insight into why birds migrate and the orderly succession of species that arrive in Wisconsin each spring.



## COVID Protocol

Mask wearing will not be required as this issues goes to press. However things can change rapidly when it comes to this on-going pandemic. Anyone that wishes to wear a mask is encouraged to do so. *However BRAW will not provide masks for the convention.*

# Call for Data!

## September 30 Deadline

Hi Fellow Bluebirders:

It's getting to be that time of year again. Although there's still some activity, the days are getting shorter and the bird houses are getting emptier. I know that each of you has an idea on how well the bluebirds are faring on your trails, and how your hard work had helped them. But it's the time of year when you'll soon get to see how well the bluebirds are doing across the state. Well... in order to get that information to you, we need you all to share the data you have. It's **Data Request** time! Please use our easy on-line form, or, if you prefer, you can submit by snail mail, by sending the printed form to me at the address, below. The electronic version is quicker, easier and cheaper (no stamps), but as long we get your data, we'll be happy! Please submit your data before **September 30**. Thanks for all you do for the birds!

Steve Fallon  
Data Director  
974 Halcyon Days Court  
Oregon, WI 53575

### BRAW EZ Summary Form

Use this form to report your nest box results for the season.

**DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30**

\_\_\_\_\_ No. of boxes\*      \_\_\_\_\_ Boxes used by Bluebirds\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bluebird eggs laid      \_\_\_\_\_ Bluebird eggs hatched

\_\_\_\_\_ Bluebirds fledged \*      \_\_\_\_\_ Tree Swallows fledged

\_\_\_\_\_ Chickadees fledged      \_\_\_\_\_ House Wrens fledged

[ ] "I did not disturb any Chickadee, Tree Swallow or House Wren nests."

\*County \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) - \_\_\_\_\_

\*email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Required data. Please provide any other data or information.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EZ Summary data can be emailed to: wisconsinbluebirds@gmail.com  
Or mail to: Data Summary Director , 974 Halcyon Days Ct., Oregon, WI. 53575

## SHOW US YOUR BLUEBIRDS!

### Enter our member photo contest.



### Show Us Your Bluebirds!

Enter the BRAW 2022 Photo Contest for a Chance to Win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card and MORE!

The contest is open to all BRAW members. Photos of bluebirds are preferred but photos of other cavity nesters are also accepted. There will be first, second and third place winners.

#### RULES:

Open to BRAW Members only.

Original photography please.

Up to 3 submissions (photos) per person.

Photos do not need to be from the current year.

Photos will be judged on composition, image quality and subject matter. Judges will not be affiliated with BRAW.

#### FIRST PLACE

A \$50 Amazon Gift Card

**Your photo** on the cover of the *Wisconsin Bluebird* Newsletter - Winter Issue.

**A free, one-year subscription** to the newsletter for yourself, a friend or family member.

#### SECOND PLACE

**A \$25 Amazon Gift Card**

**A free, one-year subscription** to the newsletter for yourself, a friend or family member.

#### THIRD PLACE

**A free, one-year subscription** to the newsletter for yourself, a friend or family member.

### Submission deadline is September 30.

Please email your photographs (JPEG file) with **your name, location and any other information** that you think others will find interesting to:

Patrick Ready at [birdsready@gmail.com](mailto:birdsready@gmail.com).

Subject line: **BRAW Bluebird Contest 2022**

**No mail in photos please.**



# County Coordinator News

## Gene Birr, CC Chair

As we approach our fall convention at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay on September 10, our members and monitors are eager to share the results of this season's monitoring of our bluebird trails. We are hopeful that this year's numbers will be a great improvement over the low numbers most of us experienced last year. These early reports from some of our County Coordinators seem to suggest a modest rise in the number of young bluebirds fledged from our nest boxes this year.

I look forward to joining all of you and sharing the joys and disappointments that each of us has encountered this summer when we all meet together for the first time in three years, in a few days from now. I trust that we all share the same anticipation and excitement of being together with the many others who share our love of seeing bluebirds and those who help to provide the guidance and materials that are needed to increase the numbers of bluebirds each year.

Please join us at this year's annual state convention and share your experiences, expertise and excitement with all the others who have a fondness for everything about bluebirds.

## Pierce County, Jim Beix

Monitoring nest boxes in Pierce and St. Croix counties is a "little" better than last summer but still nothing like it was 3-4 years ago. It may take a while to recover from last year's dip in bluebird hatching with fewer adults making it to WI in the Spring.

Regrettably I'll miss the September meeting in Green Bay. Have to attend a Marquette University class reunion in Milwaukee on the same weekend. Thanks for all your work on the newsletter.

## Eau Claire County, Rita Gundry

In communication with other bluebirders in Eau Claire County, most are having an increase in fledglings compared to last year. Looking like I will double my number---around 55 this summer compared to a total of 24 in 2021. All my boxes are fitted with Noel guards, reducing predation. I

hoped the second nesting would surpass the first, but that is not happening. We had a late start in the north-west part of the state.

## Rock County, Rod Courtier

Another slow start this spring. Not as many Tree Swallows as usual and plenty of Wrens even out in the open. I have been doing the Ripon College trials with one regular bird house and one with a skylight. No skylight had any nests at all but the regular house had a couple nests of Bluebirds, plenty of sparrows (eggs were sprayed with cooking oil) none hatched, and one nest of Tree Swallows.

My numbers are down like last year, so all we can do is keep trying and hopefully they will make a comeback. Happy Bluebirding.

## Dane County, Patrick Ready

My trails were about the same as last year. My one city trail at Elver Park didn't get bluebirds at all. A first in the seven years of monitoring there. Badger Prairie was typical, two pair had 2 broods. Brigham County Park was the norm, with three pairs out of five boxes there.

Most of the time when I monitor Elver Park and Badger Prairie I ride my bike and record data on my cell phone. I also take my camera along to grab some shots of bluebird activity.

A local girl Scout troop invited me to give a talk on bluebirds. There were seven girls that attended. I tried to abbreviate my normal program as I

**Riding my bike I get exercise and monitoring done as well. It's about a ten mile round trip mostly on bike trails.**



**Monitoring with a cell phone, I take a picture of the box, then what's inside. A picture is worth a thousand words!**

didn't think they would have a long attention span. They had some good questions after and a few weeks later they built nest boxes. The troop leader arranged to have the boxes put up in the UW Arboretum. During the summer as I rode my bike through the arboretum I spotted 3 of their boxes so I stopped to peek inside. All 3 had a Black capped chickadee nest! At least they got native cavity nesters!

A few monitors have already contacted me about nest boxes they have that need to be moved or replaced so it looks like I have some fall maintenance to do. That's because I manage the trails and they monitor the boxes for me.

I'm looking forward to the convention in Green Bay but first I'd better get my data turned in! My 2022 season is over.

## Fond du Lac County, Memuna Khan

From the Skylight Study, Kira Stark: We are conducting a state-wide study to analyze preferences of House Sparrows and native species on boxes with a normal roof, and boxes with a skylight installed at the top of the roof. Currently out of all of our Skylight Nestbox pairs, we have seen a majority of the nesting attempts made within the opaque, or "normal", boxes. 93.27% of all attempts have been made in these opaque boxes and a 6.73% of all attempts made in skylight boxes. Interestingly, House Sparrows only made attempts in the skylight boxes 2% of the time where native species attempted to nest in the skylight boxes 10% of the time, while the remainder stayed empty. It seems as though no species are a fan of the skylight boxes, though the native spe-

cies do present a higher willingness to use a skylight compared to House Sparrows.

From the Ripon College Bluebird Trail (77 boxes): The season is winding down. The trail peaked in the first week of July with 35% of the boxes occupied by nesting bluebirds. The tides changed this week with 30% of the trail occupied by House Wrens, 26% by Eastern Bluebirds, and another 30% sitting empty. So far, we have had 7 out of 19 pairs attempt second broods (37%). My other student didn't turn anything in.

### **Door County, Charlotte Lukes**

I emailed our 22 monitors and got replies from 18 of them. The early reports say that the bluebird production was better for 8 of them, the same as last year for 6 of them and worse this year for 4 of them. One man who has 66 boxes, and said this year was worse, said he will remove some boxes and change the locations for next year.

### **Oconto County, Gene Birr**

Despite my optimism that the bluebird numbers would be much better than last year on my trails, this season's results are largely disappointing. Whereas nearly 300 bluebirds often fledge from my 120 monitored nest boxes each year, only 73 were fledged last year. This year that number will likely be just 10% better, about 80 total. That modest rise is only due to the large increase on my 18 box trail at the Patriot Golf Course in Abrams. There last year only 2 pair of bluebirds fledged just 11 young. This season that trail hosted 5 bluebird pair and will likely fledge 33, tripling last year's success, as each pair had a successful second brood. Several miles away, at the home of the Patriot's owners, Dennis and Synthia Kaminski, another bluebird pair successfully fledged two broods, 7 young. Altogether those 40 birds account for exactly half of all the bluebirds that were raised on my trails. None of my other trails did any better than last year.

The other coordinators and I and our fellow monitors from Northeast Wisconsin look forward to welcoming each of you to the state convention in Green Bay in September!

## **Fall Is a Fun Season**

**By Gene Kroupa**

Fall is a fun season for monitors. It's a time for wrapping up the current nesting effort yet getting ready for next year's. With winter just around the corner, there is plenty to do.

Some bluebird pairs are still feeding and training their late clutches. Soon most adults and fledglings will be heading south, while their hardier counterparts will hang around all winter.

For monitors it's time to finish their data sheets and submit them to Steve Fallon, BRAW's data manager, by September 30<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the EZ Form for reporting is included in this newsletter, (see page 5) plus you can go to [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org) for an online version or printable one available on the BRAW website.

The same deadline holds for BRAW's photo contest. If you've been sharing images with friends and family, maybe submitting your favorites will win you a great prize and some recognition.

Perhaps the biggest task is assessing what went well or less than hoped for on your trails or in backyard boxes. Some boxes that were reliable winners in the past might now be mediocre to poor producers. And vice versa.

In both cases, a key question to ask is: What changed this season compared with previous ones? Although we strive to perfect and tweak our trails, sometimes it's best to just keep

**Fall is a great time to move or replace unproductive nest boxes.** (Andy Garcia-Rivera)



**Maples blush with color at Union Grove Cemetery in Darlington.** (Gene Kroupa)

on doing what worked well.

However, trying something new in the way of box location, placement or management could help turn poor results around. For example, house wrens can be a real problem. This year I tried putting a pair of boxes 30 yards apart and was pleasantly surprised to find that the bluebirds took one and the pesky wrens filled up the other.

Also, two boxes that had traditionally attracted tree swallows, first hosted bluebirds that successfully fledged chicks. While disappointed that some nearby boxes didn't draw any first nesters, these same quarters attracted second season squatters.

Finally, I tried my own skylight vs. traditional box research. Bluebirds grabbed the regular version, but no sparrows went for the skylight unit which was placed a football field away. Paper wasps moved into the second choice house. I'll apply a thin layer of bar soap to the inside surface of the roof to prevent this problem.

Fall is also a fun time to put up nest boxes in rural and small town graveyards. Many cemeteries have grand old maples and oaks that blush with color. Grave markers tell stories both in design and words of bygone eras and residents. Contact President Steve at [ssample@gmail.com](mailto:ssample@gmail.com) for free nest boxes for cemeteries.

You probably have your own experiences and observations that will guide your efforts. A quick check of the "Fall to Do List" on our website [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org) might suggest some additional tasks to get done before the first snow falls.



# A Day to Remember

By Sue Hall

Members of the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society teamed up with the residents of River View Lodge on Tuesday, June 2nd to build suet feeders to help feed the birds. The residence is located on the banks of the Wisconsin River and nestled in the woods off the Green Circle trail down Sherman Avenue. Kits were supplied for Audubon members to help the residents hammer and assemble their feeders. Then, each chose a color to mark their individual box and they put it on one of the trees outside adjacent to their patio. They put in Suet cakes which were donated by Fleet Farm. Afterwards, they received a colored sheet identifying which birds are in the area that could come to their feeders. Eighteen years ago, BRAW and Audubon member Kent Hall put in 6 nest boxes on the property and they are still viable today.

Past BRAW President, Joe Schultz and past VP Kent Hall participated in the event and helped the residents hammer the nails onto the frame and staple the netting onto the wooden frames. Kent then gave them a sheet with pictures that showed the birds that would come to their feeders in that area. Kent and Joe commented that it was a great experience to see the enthusiasm of the residents in learning and identifying the birds. Every morning when the residents eat breakfast in the room right inside the patio, they go to the windows to check out which birds are coming to their feeders. It was also fitting that it was Kent and Sue's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and they chose to do this activity to celebrate.





# Getting the Most From Your Data

By Gene Kroupa

Another nesting season is in the books and it's time to take a look at the stats. Hopefully, your tally turns out to be much better than last year's dismal totals.

BRAW's data manager Steve Fallon pulled together annual averages in Table 1 so that you can compare your individual results with those reported statewide by monitors. Note that 2021 data reflect the poor nesting outcomes due to the loss of bluebirds in their southern overwintering states.

My attention is drawn to a couple figures that might help improve nest box management and production of bluebirds fledged.

## Nest Boxes Used by Bluebirds

It's one thing to have nest boxes standing in promising locations, but it's quite another for them not to be attractive to bluebird pairs. Or worse, for the nest boxes to play host to wrens or house sparrows before bluebirds can settle in.

BRAW's data suggest that around a 50% bluebird occupancy rate is a reasonable expectation in a normal year. Yes, I'm happy when tree swallows or chickadees grab a nest box first, as long as I am pretty confident that it will attract second nesting bluebirds. That's why I try to be diligent about cleaning out the nest boxes as soon as other cavity nesters' clutches fly the coop.

I've also started using a trail management technique I call "saturation siting." More nest boxes are put up in an area than might be needed or used by first nesting bluebirds.

However, the boxes will be available as soon as bluebirds want a clean second nesting site. This tactic provides a margin of error for box readiness if my monitoring schedule doesn't jibe



Protecting chicks from coons helps boost bluebirds fledged per nest box used. (Michigan Bluebird Society)

with that of nest box seeking bluebirds.

Experimenting with this technique is just part of my attempt to tweak or perfect trail management to get more fledgling production. It may or may not be appropriate or work on your trail or site.



Picking a good location for nest boxes is critical to attracting bluebirds. (Gene Kroupa)

## Bluebirds Fledged

While many factors can contribute to the number of bluebird eggs laid and hatched, my main concern is with the average number of chicks fledged. Have I done my part in ensuring that the brood survived to leave the box as healthy, fully feathered fledglings?

Past data tracking as shown in Table 1 tells us that an average fledge rate of around 5.0 per nest box used by blue-

birds or 2.7 for all nest boxes reported is typical. These averages do not include 2021 data.

Every brood lost to raccoons or blood sucking black flies and nagging gnats or angry ants pulls down that average and leaves some management questions.

Did I do a good job of cleaning and sanitizing the nest box? Am I using a mounting system that makes it difficult for predators to climb the pole? Was the predator guard used deep enough and firmly attached?

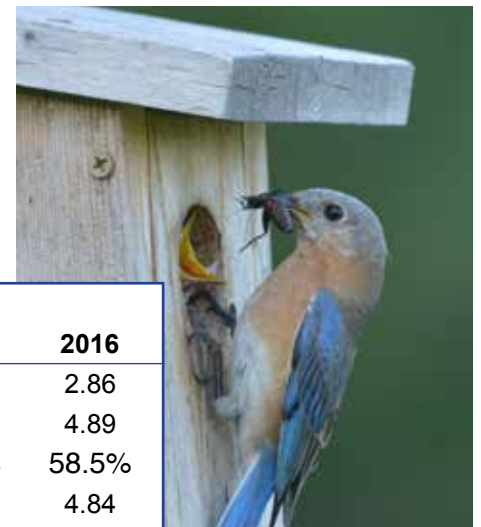
Were weeds, bushes and debris kept away from the poles? Should I have used permethrin, natural repellent and vanilla trees to discourage insects? Were nest boxes moved or other actions taken to discourage nest usurpation by wrens and house sparrows?

Answers to these and other questions can help you use your data to improve production per box. They can also suggest some things you might want to try that are a bit out of the ordinary.

For example, consider using wren guards to ward off these egg robbers after the hen bluebird has started egg laying or incubating. Give skylight houses a try in good bluebird habitat plagued by house sparrows. Use a different type nest box with better ventilation options.

A review of your 2022 nest box data and comparing them with past years' data will surely get you thinking about ways to improve production of bluebird fledglings in 2023.

Ensuring that bluebirds can find food for their chicks is important. (Pat Ready)



**Table 1 – Annual Averages Reported by Monitors**

Data Point Recorded	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
EAB Fledged/Total Boxes	1.60	2.88	2.28	2.54	2.76	2.86
EAB Fledged/EAB Box Used	4.60	5.51	4.57	5.03	4.93	4.89
% Total Boxes Used by EAB	35.4%	52.3%	50.0%	50.5%	56.0%	58.5%
Cavity Nesters Fledged/Box	4.16	4.99	4.49	4.74	4.63	4.84

# Membership Renewal Information

## By Valerie Van Winkle, Membership Services

If the address label of your *Wisconsin Bluebird* newsletter reads Fall 2022 next to your name, then your membership expires this month and you need to renew immediately. If you are an online member, you won't see this clue so please consider marking the expiration date on your calendar when you sign up. We don't want you to miss a single newsletter!

The next issue of the *Wisconsin Bluebird* goes into production in November and will be mailed in December. Memberships received after November 15 may not be processed in time to receive the Winter newsletter. Consider an extended or one-time \$300 Life Membership.

Please fill out the membership renewal form on this page and send it with your check or money order to: **BRAW, Inc., Valerie Van Winkle, PO Box 628492, Middleton, WI 53562**

You can also renew your membership at [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org) and use PayPal or a credit card.

## BRAW, Inc. Membership and Wisconsin Bluebird Subscription

Yes! I would like to join or renew as a member with the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (BRAW) and receive its quarterly newsletter *Wisconsin Bluebird*. Enclosed is my check/money order (do not send cash) made out to BRAW, Inc. for the following:

- \$10 Gift Annual Membership (Online subscription)
- \$15 Student/Teacher Annual Membership (Online subscription)
- \$20 Online Annual Membership
- \$40 Extended Online Annual Membership for 2 years
- \$60 Extended Online Annual Membership for 3 years
- \$25 Individual or Family Annual Membership (Printed copy mailed)
- \$75 Extended Individual or Family Annual Membership for 3 years (Printed copy mailed)
- \$100 Corporate Annual Membership
- \$300 Life Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

County of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

\*BRAW sends out nest box deal promotions and "time to renew" reminders via email.

### Donation (optional)

\$15 to nest box construction/post & predator guard

\$100 for nest box trail

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for bluebird research

In addition to my membership contribution, I wish to contribute: \$\_\_\_\_\_

(Contributions to BRAW are tax deductible.)

Check appropriate boxes:

This is a renewal.

This is a new membership.

This is a GIFT membership.

Enclosed please find my check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this membership request to:

BRAW, Inc.  
Valerie Van Winkle  
PO Box 628492  
Middleton, WI 53562

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Roger & Kristi Williams, \$25	Richard Swanson, \$30 nest box
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Sue Buechel, \$10	Harold R. Cram Memorial Fund
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The mission and purpose of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc. is to broaden the base of state residents to help Eastern Bluebirds and native cavity nesters by erecting, maintaining and monitoring nest boxes.

# Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

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## BRAW Convention 2022

See page 3

Check the address label. If it says "Fall 2022," then you need to RENEW membership now.

## Bluebirds Use Charred Nest Box

By John Skach

During one of the spring burns at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, where we have 98 bluebird boxes right now, one of the boxes was accidentally burned.

Before we had a chance to remove the remnant of the box, a bluebird pair started to build their nest in what was left of the box. We did not want to interfere; so, we left the pair alone. They finished the nest and laid five eggs.

We were very doubtful that the nest would be successful since it was now exposed to the weather and predators. We had some severe weather during the incubation period. To our surprise, the eggs hatched



Photos by David Yeager

and the nestlings were diligently fed by the adults.

Somewhere between May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>, two of the nestlings disappeared. The remaining three chicks did well and left the nest around June 6<sup>th</sup>. The photos show the nesting cycle in the burned box.

*Note: John Skach is in charge of the bluebird program at the Morton Arboretum. David Yeager monitored the nest box and took the photos.*