



Summer 2020
Vol. 35, No. 2

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 Cancelled!

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A Word from the Prez

Have you heard there is a Pandemic? Amazing how fast things can change between issues! As I finished up the Spring WB the news about COVID19 was just beginning to hit. About the time the issue was in the mail the entire country was on shut down. Stay home!

Many of you are probably wondering about the Annual Convention in September. **I and the BRAW board have decided to cancel it due to the pandemic.** I was getting it planned when the shut down occurred. The program speakers I contacted weren't booking future events until a vaccine is found. I hope that we can have a Spring Thing in early 2021.

We did at first. Ordered groceries online for delivery. Tried to avoid everyone. My spring programs about bluebirds were all cancelled or delayed to another time.

As spring weather came in I got the itch to get outside. My trails needed some work. I needed FRESH AIR! I began to venture out more. Boxes were cleaned and some replaced. A few bluebirds were starting to return. Things were looking up.

I heard from a few folks they weren't going to monitor boxes this year because of the virus. They couldn't risk it. No problem. We don't want anyone that may be in the high risk category going out if they feel compromised doing so. For me it meant taking on another trail to moni-



tor just south of me. I can monitor it when I'm out on my bike. I ride down and check my small trail at Elver Park then go south on the bike trail to Badger Prairie Park. I have a saddlebag for any tools I need but mostly I take a cell phone pic and transfer the info when I get home to my paper form. It's a great way to get outside, get exercise and get my boxes checked.

Having monitored trails for over 20 years now I thought I'd seen everything. Then I found 2 unusual Tree Swallow nests at Elver Park. One is made of pine needles only and has eggs but the hen did not line the nest with feathers! (Yet) Another Tree Swallow nest was made from grass and again eggs laid but no feathers line the nest. It may be that the hens will add feathers after the full clutch is laid but in my experience this is a first.



On my trail at Brigham County park I have a white egg laying hen. First one in over 15 years. Last time I had one was at Lake Kegonsa State Park when I monitored the trail there. Only about 6% of bluebird hens lay white eggs.

Now if I could just get a haircut.

Happy Trails!

Patrick Ready
BRAW President

Even the Eastern Bluebird Can Be Affected By This Pandemic!

By **Steve Sample. V.P.**

No, our bluebirds are not carriers of Covid 19. Yes, their nesting success may be. What am I talking about?

My primary trail of 35 boxes is on a golf course. During the beginning of March, I do what most of us do: added some boxes, repaired some, moved some and replaced some. Nothing new here at all. I actually found two bluebird pairs sitting on nesting boxes in mid March. It looked encouraging for the start of this year.

However, when I went to check my boxes for the first time for nesting activity at the end of March, I received a surprise. I was forbidden to go on the course. The course's general manager closed the course as dictated by the governor and issued an order that no non-employee will be allowed on the course until they decide to re-open. The Green's Superintendent, a huge supporter of my efforts, argued that what I did was important, but to no avail. Ouch. It was implied that

I would be arrested for trespassing. Really!

The general manager has been there for several years and has made it clear that he would rather see my bluebird boxes be taken off the course. The two former general managers were very happy to have bluebirds and went out of their way to tell me so. This new young manager said he has never seen a bluebird and questioned whether they were around. The course maintenance person let him know otherwise. Bluebird nesting and monitoring at this course has been going on for 19 years. Some of you may recall Gary Gaard, who I believe was the first.

My best year on this site saw over 3 bluebird fledglings per box. This does not count the other species. Last year saw 1.8.

I'm confident that I will be allowed back on the course soon. Probably by the time you read this I hope. I also hope no one else has experienced this disruption as well.

There is a lesson here. Most people do not have a clue as to what and why we do this chore of monitoring nests and they also have no idea about the

peril of the Eastern bluebirds and the need to help them. I have given lessons to golfers about what we all do for the last 12 years. Most are interested and non-knowledgeable about our organization. I have received huge numbers of support from golfers on this course and many seek me out when they are playing.

Thank you all for your work and I know you are spreading the word.

BRAW & Amazon Smile!

Amazon has developed a way to support non-profit organizations such as **BRAW**. If you use Amazon, log into "<https://smile.amazon.com>" instead of amazon.com. You will need to select **BRAW** as your intended organization that you support by typing **Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin** in the appropriate line. **ALL ORDERS USING THIS LOGIN WILL GENERATE A PORTION OF YOUR PURCHASE TO BRAW!** The products purchased will cost you the very same as if you just log into their standard site. However, BRAW will receive 0.5% of your total purchase. It is easy and you will be supporting us without any additional cost to you.

The Triple Threat

By Gene Kroupa, Director

Bluebird nests and chicks face a triple threat to survival: 1) raccoons, 2) black flies and ants, and 3) house sparrows. While an ounce of prevention goes a long ways, sometimes a healthy dose of cure is needed to keep these pests under control.

Raccoons can wreak havoc almost anytime from egg laying through fledging. They quickly acquire a taste for eggs and chicks. To prevent trouble, make sure the nest box entrance is protected by a Noel wire guard or a wooden block extension. Also, make it difficult for these bandits to climb the mounting pole by greasing it. Keep the pole away from a fence or post that gives this wily predator a leg up.



Ruth Smith photo

Black flies can suck the life out of chicks by repeatedly biting them for a blood meal. Female flies are attracted to the CO₂ given off by incubating hens or immobile chicks. Ants are attracted by egg residue and can harass chicks to exhaustion and death. Both black fly and ant infestations can be prevented by using a diluted concentration of Permethrin-10 insecticide. Spraying the nest box entrance and all cracks both inside and out will discourage these pests. If there are eggs or chicks in the box, put a small clear jar over them before spraying. In a week, repeat the spraying but only on the outside of the box. Trim weeds and grass around the pole.

House sparrows are especially nasty because they bully bluebirds from the nest boxes and sometimes kill the males. Locating nest boxes away from livestock feeding areas and homes usually prevents having a problem with this invasive species. However, if a male sparrow becomes an issue, the best solution is to install a Van Ert trap. Properly used, this trap allows you to humanely live catch a sparrow for removal. Accidentally trapped bluebirds can be released unharmed. Order traps online by going to www.vanerttraps.com or call 515.418.3757.

More information about dealing with bluebird predators and pests can be found at www.braw.org and www.nabluebirdsocty.org.

County Coordinator Reports

By Gene Birr, CC Chair

Many of this issue's reports from our County Coordinators have examples of events that have been postponed or canceled due to the health concerns of the current virus pandemic. I know that these health and economic challenges have made me appreciate even more the opportunity that each of us has to get out and about walking our trails, and the physical exercise and stress reduction it will bring us. As we begin to monitor our bluebird trails again this season, I hope we take the time to appreciate the pleasure of being outdoors pursuing the activity that we can enjoy doing, individually.

We continue to suffer the loss of several long-standing County Coordinators who have chosen to resign their positions due to increasing health concerns. **Carol McDaniel** has left her post as CC in **Lafayette** and **Grant** counties and **Fred Craig** has chosen to step down from his long-held position on the **BRAW Board of Directors** and **Trempeleau CC**. We thank each of them for their many years of service to BRAW and their efforts to improve the status of bluebirds throughout Wisconsin.

As you review the up-dated list of County Coordinators if your county is not listed and you would like more information contact me at 920-826-7552 or by email: gbbird22@gmail.com and I can answer any questions you may have about what being a coordinator entails. Merely listing your contact info so someone can call and ask a simple question about bluebirds may be all you choose to do. Each coordinator may decide for themselves how active they want to be. Choosing to give talks and presentations to groups interested in learning about bluebirds, or assisting others in setting up bluebird trails after finding suitable nesting habitat are measures that can enhance the efforts we all can take to advance the future success of bluebirds.

Jack Bartholmai, Dodge County

On Leap Day, February 29th, I presented videos and photos of cavity nesting ducks, highlighting the leaping of Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Bufflehead young that were on my nest box trails in Dodge Co.

On March 3rd, I gave a presentation of the Life History of the Eastern Bluebird to the Atwood Conservation Club.

Patrick Ready, Dane County

My calendar was lined up with bluebird presentations but all were cancelled due to the pandemic. I was able to accomplish a few things anyway. I was able to get new boxes for Holy Wisdom in Middleton. The trail there needed revamping and old boxes replaced. BRAW donated 5 boxes and a generous donor bought 12 boxes for the trail. All are NABS Style boxes made by BRAW member Fred Craig from Holman. The trail will have a new monitor and data will be reported to BRAW in September.

A couple of my trails I manage were in need of new monitors so I recruited them before the season started. Our new membership chair Valerie Van Winkle was helpful in getting a new monitor for the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove. A birding friend took over a small trail at Goth Park.

Steve Lang has taken over monitoring the trail at Token Creek County Park. He has had a super start to the season and I have been answering his questions. Steve finds the darnedest things. He sent me a photo of a wren nest with Tree Swallow eggs! Must



Continued next page

have been a battle for the box and guess who won? He has also helped some other monitors by replacing old boxes and getting trails in order that were "left go" for too long. Thanks Steve for all your help.

I monitor 3 trails myself and things were slow to get going but now things are picking up.

Dave Misterek, Winnebago County

Hi Gene, thanks for your efforts. I am Dave Misterek, coordinator for Winnebago County. My wife, Christine, and I have been busy getting our bluebird trail at Utica golf club ready for the season. We have added 5 birdhouses for a total of 43 houses. We look forward to a good season.

Jim Beix, Pierce County

On March 7th Lowell Peterson (St. Croix Co.) and I presented a bluebird program at Freedom Park Center in Prescott. Nearby Ellsworth had requested a presentation also so Lowell asked that Ellsworth people come to the Prescott presentation as the towns are only 10-15 miles apart. About 50-55 adults and children attended. A local craftsman had made NABS nest box assembly possible for attendees after the talk. Our formal presentation included bluebird lifecycle, different nest box styles, predator guards, box placement, and monitoring.

Lowell, Jim Higgins and I had planned a similar program for InterState Park in St. Croix Falls but the pandemic forced postponement of this presentation.

Mary Hollebach, Washington County

We held our Bluebird Box Building Workshop on Sat. March 14th just before the governor's orders came out to limit group activities in the state. 13 people attended including a couple of grandparents with grandchildren. What a nice family activity! Last week a bluebird monitor in Hartford reported finding two bluebird nests in her boxes on the golf course. I found two bluebird nests as well last week in boxes at Riveredge Nature Center. Hope the birds hold off with other nesting activities until it warms up again!

Rita Gundry, Eau Claire County

Eau Claire County endured an 8.5-10 inch snowstorm on Easter Sunday, followed by unseasonably cold weather, dropping into the teens overnight.



Pat Ready photo

That seems to have halted all bluebird progress in this area. Checking with other bluebirders, they are having the same situation. Prior to the storm, we had a number of completed nests and some just started. Now 10 days since the storm has passed and no eggs are appearing in any of the nests. Concerned that snow most likely covered all available food, my brother, Larry Liegel, also a BRAW member, and I, put feeding stations near the site of completed nests. We used Wild Delight for Bluebirds...an advanced formula called BUGS & BERRIES. In addition to sunflower and safflower seeds, it contains dried black soldier fly larvae, dried mealworms, dried darkling beetles, raisins, cranberries and cherries. Most of the stations were emptied of food in a few days. Of course, other birds may have enjoyed it, as well. We are in hopes the bluebirds will return and claim the nests they built and continue with the mission of propagating their species.

Because of COVID-19, the two lectures Larry and I had planned were postponed. We expect to present to the Eau Claire Master Gardener and the Chippewa Valley Learning in Retirement groups when the state lifts restrictions for meeting.

Don Pritzl, Kewaunee County

Not much happening because of the virus. I was scheduled to have a display at the Bird City Algoma Day on April 18, but that was canceled. I have been closing all my boxes, moving some and put up a couple new ones. Looking forward to the

coming season. Saw my first bluebird, a beautifully colored male, on March 27, but haven't seen many since. Weather has been cold and windy so I don't think any nest building has started yet.

I'm excited that the 2020 Annual Meeting could be in NE Wisconsin. Hoping for a "normal" summer.

Bob Butzer, Vilas County

I have been getting the boxes cleaned and ready with hopes that the bluebirds **don't** come back for awhile. We're having freezing nights and frequent dustings of snow.

Gene Birr, Oconto County

After **Cordula Van Den Heuvel** and I gave a presentation to a standing-room-only crowd of 130 folks at the hardware store in Shawano in February, we spoke to 20 people who attended her Bird City event at the library in Oconto a week later. But then the current virus pandemic forced my annual talk at the WBU store in Green Bay to be canceled in mid-March.

Della and Gerry Clabots of Suamico have agreed to take over the 35 box trail that **Melissa McNeil** has monitored there for the last five years. They continue the legacy of our former **Brown County Coordinator, Joanne DeVetter** who established that trail over ten years ago.

I have prepared 60 nest boxes, ready for use by local monitors who may need them. **Barb Allen** has taken 12 skylight boxes to use on her golf course trails which are often bothered by House Sparrows. In late March, I assisted **Sue Clairmont** in re-working two of her trails near Pulaski. We repaired roofs on several boxes, straightened poles on others and replaced some with skylight boxes.

My first observation of a bluebird nest contained 6 eggs already on April 10 on my brother's farm near Oconto Falls. Two weeks later when I monitored the other 20 boxes nearby, this 6-egg nest was still the only box with a bluebird nest. On another trail there were bluebird nests in 3 of the first 4 boxes, then nothing in the next ten in a row, and only 2 of the 18 on my golf course trail had bluebirds initially.

Getting to Know

Your County Coordinator

Don Pritzl, Kewaunee County

I have been the coordinator of Kewaunee County since the mid-90's and have the county pretty much to myself. I don't think there's another person monitoring a bluebird trail in the county.

I've spoken to many groups over the years—Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, Science clubs at the high school, etc. Some of these groups get enthusiastic, build boxes, put them up and then forget about them. I'd rather they not put them up at all if they're not going to monitor them. I've held meetings and trail walks for the public and the same people show up, and they're as old or older than me.

I may sound pessimistic, but the old adage, "you don't miss something you never had" seems to apply here. The younger people have other interests that don't include outdoor activities other than sports. I put articles in the paper occasionally and I have a booth at the Bird City Algoma event each April.

I've had some success and a lot of satisfaction on my bluebird trails over the years. I started with just a few boxes in 1992, have had as many as 75 at one time, but have scaled back in recent years. I had 58 boxes this past year with 52 BB nests; 43 were successful, had 216 eggs and fledged 178 bluebirds. Over the years almost 4000 bluebirds have fledged. I've had the same problems that everyone has had. Sparrows are always a problem and wrens are increasingly taking over boxes. I've moved some boxes, but I have trouble finding suitable habitat within reasonable travel distance. Urbanization has taken some of my prime spots, too.

I've had boxes stolen, run over by cars, demolished by farm equipment, shot full of holes and one on a golf course was stuffed with old balls!

I am 78 years old and find it increasingly difficult monitoring my boxes. Most are on roadsides and the deep ditches give me trouble. I will continue as long as I am able, but have been unable to get anyone interested to take over or to get the younger generation interested.

County Coordinator List

By Gene Birr

Thanks to all these Bluebirders that volunteer to be their County Coordinator and help spread the word about Bluebird conservation. Here is the list for 2020.

County	Coordinator	Phone	Email
Adams	Beyers, Myron	608-586-4833	n/a
Ashland	Becker, Rich & Carol	715-274-3200	richfstop@gmail.com
Brown	Mayer, Steve	920-434-9885	mayersj511@aol.com
Chippewa	Anderson, Debbie	715-382-4639	jradma@centurytel.net
Columbia	Foote-Martin, Sue	608-333-9645	goosep@chorus.net
Dane	Ready, Pat	608-239-0791	birdsready@gmail.com
Dodge	Bartholmai, Jack	920-887-1505	jack@bartholmai.com
Door	Lukes, Charlotte	920-823-2478	Rnclukes@mwwb.net
Douglas	Bergsten, Charles	715-364-2679	charles477@centurytel.net
Eau Claire	Gundry, Rita	715-579-5523	gundryrk@uwec.edu
Florence	Kowalski, Ed	715-732-8803	n/a
Fond du Lac	Memuna Khan	920-312-8142	khanm@ripon.edu
Green	Dreikosen, Kathleen	608-325-5562	kddd@tds.net
Green Lake	Marwitz, David	920-291-6001	dfmarwitz@centurytel.net
Iowa	Moody, Dale & Doris	608-846-5024	drydog93@yahoo.com
Jackson	Eberhardt, Darrell	715-963-4775	n/a
Kenosha	Rosenstiel, Stan	n/a	mrstanmr@yahoo.com
Kewaunee	Pritzl, Don	920-845-2436	n/a
Lacrosse	Marking, Leif	608-779-1794	lcmarking@gmail.com
Marathon	Romanak, Claire	715-257-1905	ribriver2@wildblue.net
Oconto	Birr, Gene	920-826-7552	gbbird22@gmail.com
Outagamie	Mayer, Steve	920-434-9885	mayersj511@aol.com
Ozaukee	Holleback, Mary	262-335-9843	mholleback@gmail.com
Pierce	Beix, Jim	715-425-6981	jbeix@dishup.us
Racine	Rosenstiel,	n/a	mrstanmr@yahoo.com
Rock	Courtier, Rod	608-882-5859	racourtier@charter.net
Sauk	Stehling, Donna & Bill	608-643-0824	donnamstehling@gmail.com
Sawyer	Chambers, Diane	715-699-0356	zippydi@centurytel.net
Shawano	Meiers, Ruthann	715-758-2463	alstaxidermy@granitewave.com
Sheboygan	Curtis, Lee	920-838-2193	n/a
St. Croix	Peterson, Lowell	715-247-3243	n/a
Vilas	Butzer, Bob	715-356-2215	n/a
Washington	Holleback, Mary	262-335-9843	mholleback@gmail.com
Waupaca	Beyer, Craig & Sheila	920-233-6770	huntsend.wolf.net
Winnebago	Misterek, Dave	920-233-6770	dmisterek47@gmail.com

Corrected Bluebird Numbers for 2019

By Steve Falon, Data Collection

Try as I might, it seems that there are oversights in the data. We want all our monitors to be appreciated and recognized. Below is a table of those not included in the previous newsletter, as well as the updated bluebird totals associated with their submissions. I apologize for the oversight!

Monitors	County	Number of boxes:	Bluebirds fledged:
Bruce & Jerri Brewer	Monroe	35	187
Jeff & Abby Duebler	Monroe	40	162
Warren & Janet Evans	Monroe	32	108
Bessie Kmiecik & C. Lautermilch	Monroe	47	256
Cathy Malzacher & Sharon Teske	Monroe	48	157
Bob Lucas (Swamp Lover's)	Dane	43	95
Jack Bartholmai	Dodge	125	159
Totals		6,824	15,867

BRAW Summer Financial Report

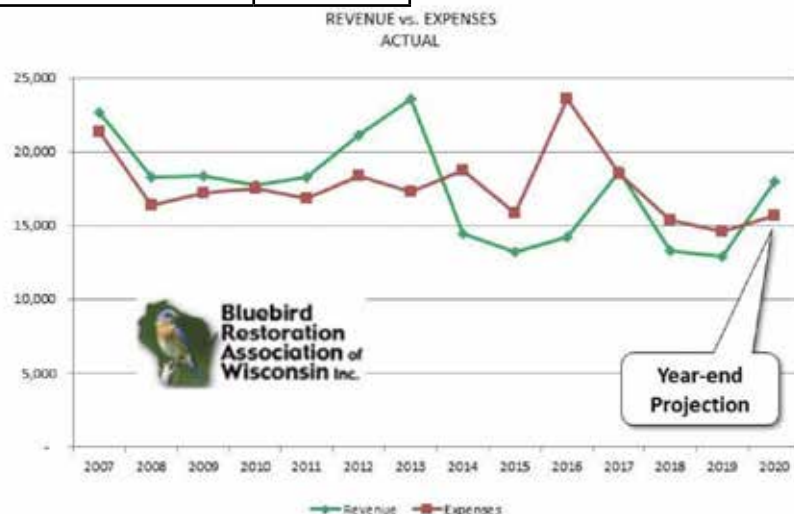
By Dan Schroeder, Treasurer

Greetings, Bluebirders!

This has certainly been a strange year on many fronts – but at least we have some positive news regarding our BRAW financial picture. Year-to-date (April 30), here's a chart of our main revenue and expense categories:

REVENUES	
Memberships	6,505
Donations	2,439
Material Sales	1,458
TOTAL REVENUES	10,402
EXPENSES	
Operations	3,715
Material & Equipment	1,390
Financial Costs	59
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,164
NET REVENUE	5,238

This net gain was made in large part by new memberships and the generous donations of our bluebirding friends. Many thanks to our regular and new members! Based on our history of revenues and expenses for the remaining months of the year, we are able to project the year-end results as a positive one for our Association. This looks to be a positive year financially with your continued support!



BRAW.org Will Be Changing Soon!

By Steve Sample, V.P.

Some of our users know that in the past we found our website compromised by hacker groups on several occasions. The reason for this problem came from the software we have been using. This software had little security built in and is known for its issues like the one we have been having. We had to do something.

Locating a person willing to re-write and transfer the site to an improved location using secure software, is not an easy find without great cost. Well, I have a very good friend who does this type of activity and he agreed to pursue this monstrous chore, but also at NO cost to BRAW! Wow! Let me introduce Andy Garcia-Rivera. Andy does not hesitate to take on challenges and looking at his past occupations, it is obvious. He has worked as a Radiation and Corporate Biological Safety Officer at Covance Laboratories, but more impressive is he has served as a Director of Environmental, Health and Safety at three Universities: University of Colorado, Cornell University and notably the UW of Madison. He is retired now.

We are all hard working and dedicated volunteers to enhance bluebird populations in our state. Andy is dedicated to help us in a different way. We can look forward to our new web setup in the near future. Thanks Andy!



Andy

BRAW Welcomes These Members

BRAW welcomes these new and returning members. For the Blues!

Sally Tetrault, Dresser

Roger & Kristi Williams, Cottage Grove

Sherry Seubert & Jim Ryan, Baileys Harbor

Amy & Jeff Maras, Egg Harbor

Kari & John Adank, Onalaska

Greg & Beth Clabots, Green Bay

Laurel Holgerson, Madison

Melissa Kesling, Oregon

Gib Docken, Mt. Horeb

Rachel Urban, Eau Claire

Andrew Graf, Verona

Mary Naylor, Waupaca

Juliana Van Winkle, Racine

Kelly Barbeau, Madison

Kaye Forstek, Green Bay – *new Life member*

Chara Matti, Madison

Howard Fenton, Madison

Tracee Neumann, Mukwonago

Connie Anderson, Stockholm

Craig Fox, Butternut

Nathan & Jenny Knuth, Cornell

Barbara Streber, Deforest

Nicole Remackel, River Falls

Herb Wiser, Hudson, IL

Cathy Daus, Wautoma

BRAW thanks the following individuals for their generosity.

Donations:

Karen Kinziner, Fond du Lac \$25 undesignated

Melissa Kiesling, Oregon \$15 nest box

Gib Docken, Mt. Horeb \$15 nest box

Gerald and Della Clabots, Green Bay \$100 undesignated

Jerry Martin, Gurnee, IL \$700 undesignated

Deb Knudsen, Madison \$15 nest box

Phyllis Feiner, Spring Green \$100 trails

Roger and Kristi Williams, Cottage Grove \$25 nest boxes



THE BLUEBIRD RESTORATION ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN



Enter our
MEMBER
PHOTO
CONTEST



Show Us Your Bluebirds!

Enter the BRAW 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 1st.

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

Pat Ready at birdsready@gmail.com.
Subject line: BRAW Bluebird Contest

No mail in photos please.

Make a Predator Guard

Materials:

1 x 4" pine or cedar board

Hardware cloth cut to 16"x6"

3 Screws 1-1/2" long

Tools:

Staple Gun

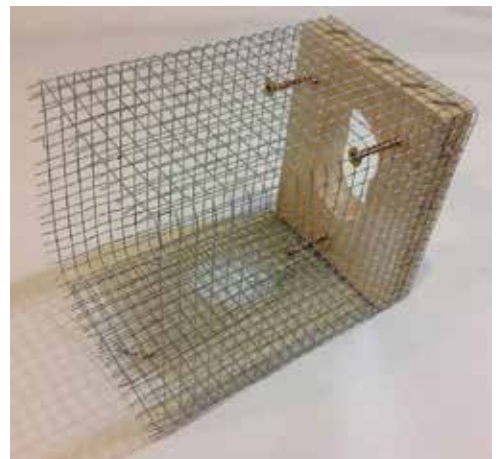
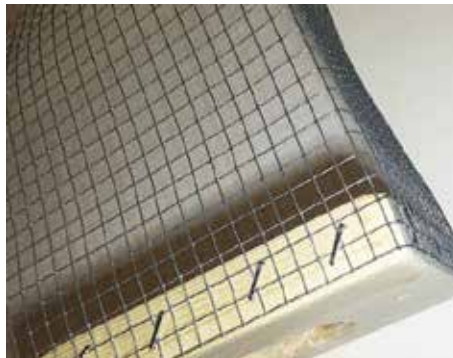
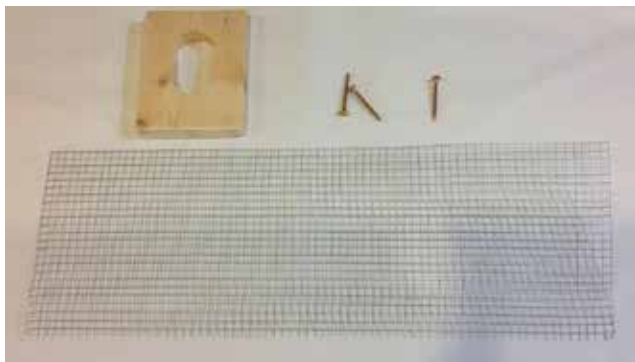
Drill

Hammer (to pound staples down firm)

Cut the wood to 4-1/2" length

Drill a 1-1/2" entrance hole or an oval hole in the piece.

Starting on the bottom wrap the hardware cloth around the wood piece stapling it several times as you go. Drill 3 holes for screws in the wood piece for easy fastening to the box.



The wood block is optional. You can attach the wire directly to front with several screws and washers but the block of wood makes a sturdier guard.

Worksheet for BRAW Data

This form is for your convenience when recording your data for the Form 21 at the end of the nesting season.

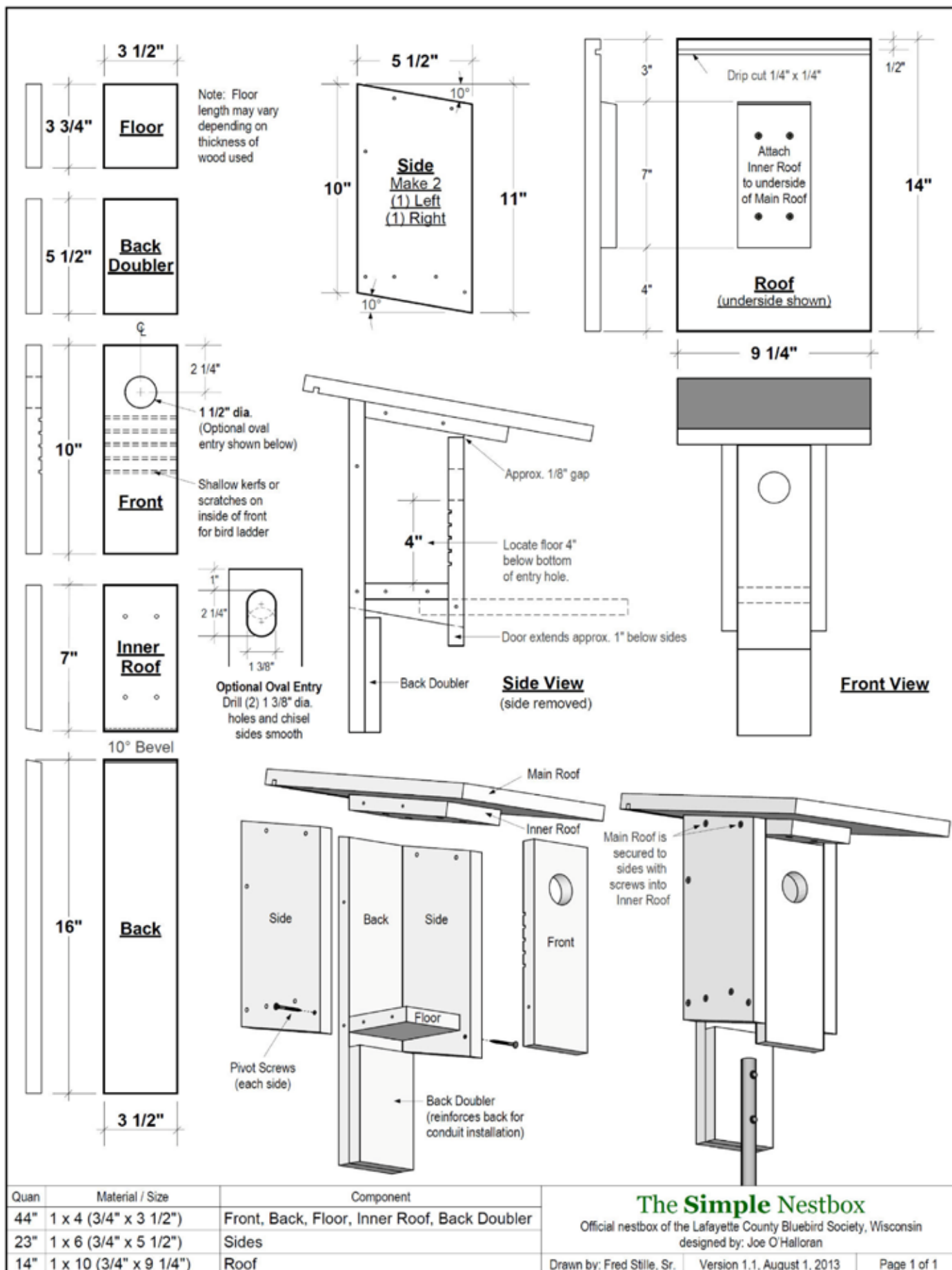
Monitor:	Year:
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Year:

This sheet is for:

☐ Bluebird data ☐ Tree Swallow data ☐ House Wren data ☐ Black-capped Chickadee data

[illegible]



Membership Renewal Information

By Valerie Van Winkle, Membership Services

It may be time to renew your annual membership to the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW), so that we can update our mailing list with the least cost and effort.

Look at the address label on your newsletter. The number group following your name indicates the month and year of expiration. If your label reads Summer 2020 your membership will expire with this issue.

You will also be able to renew or join as an Online Paperless member and get the newsletter by email. We will send you the issue electronically. This will save us postage, reduce printing cost and conserve paper. You can print it if you desire.

Fill out the membership renewal form and send it with your check or money order to **BRAW Membership, c/o Valerie Van Winkle, PO Box 628492, Middleton, WI 53562**

If we do not receive your renewal August 1, your membership will begin with the next issue after payment is received. *We no longer mail out back issues and back date memberships.*

The basic \$25 Individual/Family membership covers the cost of printing and mailing the quarterly *Wisconsin Bluebird* newsletter.

The next issue of the *Wisconsin Bluebird* goes into production in July and was mailed to arrive the first week in September. Memberships received after August 1 may not be processed in time to receive the Fall newsletter. Consider a one time \$300 Life Membership in BRAW. **Life members do not have to renew.**

Consider the Special \$10 Gift Membership (Online only).

All Renewals/New Memberships received now will begin with the Fall issue.

New members can use the form below to join BRAW.

Please complete the membership renewal form provided here and return it to BRAW as soon as possible. **Now you can renew your membership at www.braw.org and use PayPal or a credit card and you don't need to mail anything in.**

**A BRAW
subscription makes
a great Anytime gift!**
\$10 includes Online Newsletter
Give the gift of Bluebirds!

Wisconsin Bluebird Subscription and BRAW, Inc. Membership

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

Subscription/Membership contribution:

☐ \$10 Gift Membership (Online via email)

☐ \$15 Student/Teacher (Online via email)

☐ **\$20 Online paperless issue via email**

☐ \$25 Individual or Family Annual (hard copy mailed)

☐ \$100 Corporate Annual

☐ \$300 Life Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: () _____

County of residence: _____

☐ \$15 to nest box construction with 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 subscription/membership

☐ This is a GIFT subscription.

Enclosed please find my check \$ _____

Mail this membership/subscription request to:

BRAW, Inc.

Valerie Van Winkle

PO Box 628492

Middleton, WI 53562

Please note: This form appears in this newsletter as a convenience for all who wish to obtain membership.

Memberships expire as noted on your mailing label and should be renewed immediately to ensure continued access to newsletters.

If you renew or join during the year you will be on a quarterly membership basis and *will not* receive back issues of *Wisconsin Bluebird*.

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

Patrick Ready
815 Sky Ridge Dr.
Madison, WI 53719
www.braw.org



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Annual Convention Cancelled!

see page 2

Check the address label. If it says "Summer 2020",
then you need to RENEW membership now.

Life cycle of the Black-capped Chickadee by Patrick Ready.



Pair select box and female builds the nest.



Within a week or two
4-7 eggs are usually
laid in the nest.



After 12-14 days
of incubation the
chicks hatch.



After 12-14 days old the chicks
are ready to fledge.



The chicks grow
quickly being fed by
both parents.