

Spring 2016  
Vol. 31, No. 1



# 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

## Join Us for the 2016 Annual Meeting!

see page 2

### BRAW – 30 Years of Bluebird Recovery



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## A Word from the Prez

Where were you 30 years ago? What were you doing? Well it was 30 years ago that the Bluebird restoration Association of Wisconsin was started. Yes we are celebrating our 30th Anniversary this year!

So let's see that was 1986. We had sold our house in Stoughton and were planning to build a new house on the northwest side of town. We had little kids, a four year old girl and a 2 year old boy. Wow did they grow up fast!!

Going back a little further to 1979 or so my friend Henry and I built 4 bluebird nest boxes, NABS type that I found plans for. We put them up around a farm property where Henry rented the house. As I recall all we got were House Sparrows and a Tree Swallow for our efforts. Henry moved away and I was busy raising my own family for the next few years.

Then in 1987 I saw an article in the State Journal about nest box seminars that were being held around the state. The closest one was Mount Horeb so I planned to attend. When I got there it was small group of mostly men sitting around talking about bird houses. There were a few sample boxes we could look over and some printed hand outs. The main message was basically make some nest boxes and

put them up in proper habitat for bluebirds. I don't recall anything being said about monitoring at the time. They just wanted nest boxes put up to give bluebirds a place to nest. The thought being their numbers were dropping because of lack of nesting places.

There was a sign up sheet to join BRAW for free the first year. The WI DNR funded BRAW the first 3 years before it became a sole non-profit organization it is today.

On my way home that day I decided to make 2 nest boxes and find places to put them. I got permission from a farmer west of town and mounted my boxes on fence post. It took 3 years before I saw my first pair of bluebirds on top of one of my boxes. What a thrill that was!

A lot has happened and changed over the next several years. If you have a bluebird story or memory you'd like to share send it to me. I'm planning to have a story about our 30th Anniversary in the next issue.

I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting at Mosquito Hill in New London on April 9.

Happy Trails!

Patrick Ready  
BRAW President

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# BRAW Annual Meeting

## at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, April 9, 2016

The BRAW Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2014 at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London, WI.

### Conference fees:

\$5.00: Registration without lunch per person

\$10.00: Registration with 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 form with lunch choices on page 3.

**Registration is paid in advance.** Please include name and address of each person registering. Mail check payment to:

### Pat Ready

3117 Stratton Way #112.  
Madison, WI 53719

### Program for 2016 BRAW Annual Meeting

8:00-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:15 Welcome: President Pat Ready;  
Treasurer's Report: Mike Helgren

9:15-9:30 2015 Season: Steve Sample, BRAW V.P. and  
Coordinator of Data Collection

9:30-10:30 *Bluebirds: Their History & Their Future* –  
Bob Tamm

10:30-10:45 Break with refreshments

10:45 BRAW Awards

11:00-11:45 *WI Breeding Bird Atlas Year 2* – William  
Mueller & Mike Reese

12:00-1:00 Lunch (**Pre-paid only**)

1:00-1:15 Announcement of Silent Auction winners:  
Pat Ready (Auction to be over at 1 p.m.)

1:15-2:15: *Survival Is the Story of Winners & Losers:*  
– Steve Bechkal

## Annual Meeting Presenters



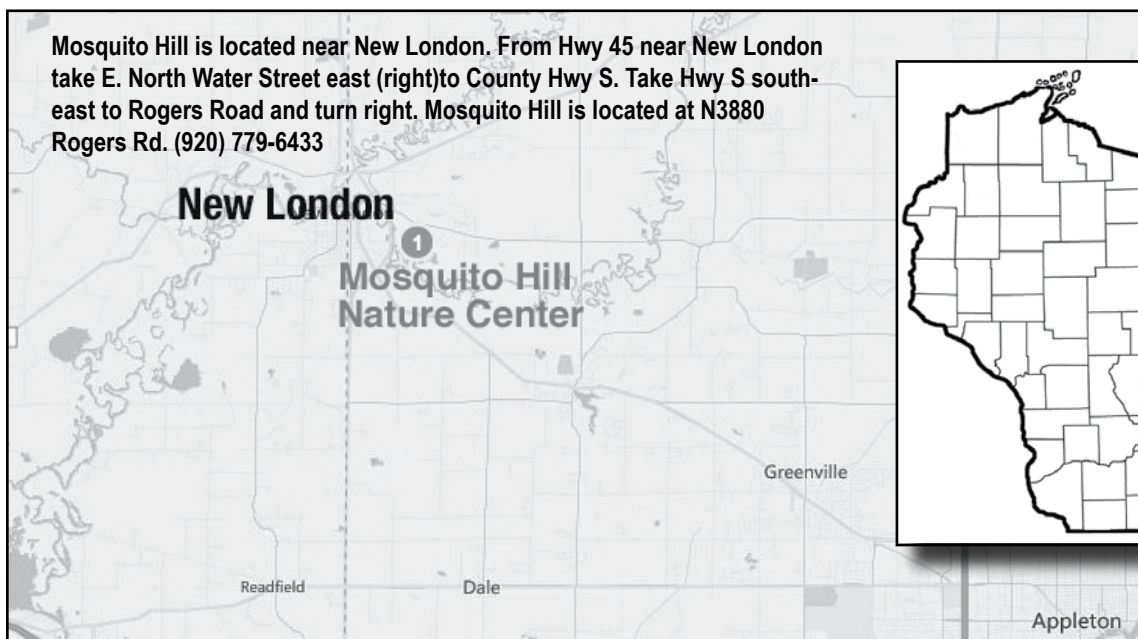
**Bluebirds: Their History and Their Future. By Bob Tamm** Essentially, it is a study of the causes of extinction and how it is a threat to many of our native birds, including our cavity nesters. But instead of only focusing on man's failures, we will examine recent success stories, including our bluebirds - and how we can ensure a bright future for them.

This presentation by William Mueller & Mike Reese covers the **History and Rationale of Atlas 1**, and the many ways in which Atlas 2 is different from the first one. We focus on how to collect data, and the ways people can participate in this Atlas (whether they are "expert birders" or just starting out, and then we'll give a report/update on what was learned during Year 1 of this five-year project.



**Survival is the story of winners and losers. By Steve Betchkal** Birds face a lot of stressors in their brief and fragile lives – not only from natural conditions, but from human-caused. Many bird species are suffering dangerous population declines. Yet for all the problems that humans have created for birds, we have worked hard to make amends too. The terrible possibility of extinction should serve as a warning to all of us, but -- while we're alive -- it's also good to celebrate the "Success Stories."

Mosquito Hill is located near New London. From Hwy 45 near New London take E. North Water Street east (right) to County Hwy S. Take Hwy S south-east to Rogers Road and turn right. Mosquito Hill is located at N3880 Rogers Rd. (920) 779-6433



### SILENT AUCTION

Are you creative with sewing, baking or other crafts? Do you have a garden? 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.



### ANNUAL MEETING 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

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

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

Return form **with payment** to:

Pat Ready  
3117 Stratton Way #112  
Madison, WI 53719  
**by April 1**

# Statewide Bluebird Nesting Data Reported for 2015

By Steve Sample

**Quick Numbers:**

30,797 Bluebirds Fledged  
50,205 Total Cavity Nesters Fledged  
9,375 Nesting Boxes Monitored  
5,771 Boxes with successful Bluebird Fledging

350 Individual Trail Monitors \*  
35,139 Bluebird Eggs Laid  
29,297 Bluebird Eggs Hatched

\* This number reflects my efforts to total monitors from group submissions. If there are errors or I missed someone, please let me know. My contact information is in the newsletters.



bluebird production total for a large trail is equivalent to a small trail is unfair. Different part of the state has different issues that may or may not influence the productions per box totals. We all should respect all monitors' efforts regardless of the number of boxes in any particular trail or the results when we all work hard to do the best we can.

Looking at next year, I would like to see the large community of trail efforts separated from individual monitor efforts. Every trail monitor should be given credit for their individual efforts and the dozen or so group totals be submitted separately. I find that Brice and the Ice Age trails are phenomenal organizations I think we all can appreciate the wondrous work of their work produces.

Let's not forget that the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin is by far solely responsible for our state maintaining a sizable Eastern Bluebird population for all to enjoy.

I will be looking for feedback at our convention in April.

Excellent year! Congratulations! The very last percentage is interesting for it tells a huge story. **Monitoring the nest boxes on a weekly basis pays off.**

Developing the final statistics was a challenge, especially being the first year of the new reporting form. Many of our trail monitors submitted the old form, I received data from large groups without the individual monitor totals and some people submitted their individual data while their data was also submitted in a group total. In fairness to the hard work some indi-

vidual place with their assigned trail; the listing should honor individuals as well as recognizing a group coordinator or organization. Next year should be easier to compile this data.

I have left out much of the data compiling we have seen in the past. The most obvious omission is the production of fledged birds per monitored boxes. Though we can be proud of individuals that have large numbers of fledged bluebirds, the idea that a

Fledged BB Bird Totals			Berens Betty		Christensen Daryl		Dreshek Venna			
Monitor	Boxes	Flied	6	2	40	78	6	8		
Abraham Bruce	6	15	Berge Lenny	12	13	Christensen Daryl	46	Duebler Jeff & Abby	40	275
Adank John	13	52	Bergsten Charles	31	54	Clabets Gerald & Della	2	Duszynski Pamela	20	66
Allen Barb	5	5	Biagi Emily	25	61	Clairmont Sue & Phil	35	Eberhardt Darrel	160	912
Altergott Joanne	19	35	Birr Gene	105	325	Clairmont Sue & Phll	27	Eberhardt Marilyn	20	140
Anderson Iler	108	449	Blahnik Anne & Lee	1	10	Coombs	21	Edwards Laurel	11	31
Anderson Debbie	40	191	Blattner Andria	17	23	Corcoran Sharon	10	Elgan Dave & Cathy	23	68
Anderson/Roth Kate/Janice	35	92	Boestedt Victoria	1	5	Courtier Rodney	62	Fallon/Stock Steve/Al & Barb	25	41
Andrewski Lisa & Mike	1	3	Brady Jerry	11	0	Courtier Rodney	9	Fare Rick	428	720
Bachman Amy	16	39	Brady Jan	6	5	Craig Fred & Mary	83	Fare		58
Balmer Bill	9	64	Brase Jim	5	9	Craig Fred & Mary		Fare		67
Balsiger Ronald	10	5	Brock Kathie	13	66	Crawford Lynne	11	Feaval/Franke		
Bartholmai Jack	104	145	Bruder Melissa	29	118	Curran Michael & Jean	4	Sandy/Richard	2	10
Bartholmai Holly	23	84	Butzer Bob	16	40	Curtiss Lee	110	Feneudael Ed	3	0
Bartholmai James	65	258	Byers Myron	75	327	Daugherty/Rayfield		Fiend Keith	28	15
Basten Susan	7	31	Camancho Fred & Joyce	35	112	Austin /Wayne	34	Filzen Don & Gail	9	26
Beaver Jan	1	4	Cannon Christine	1	4	Dawson Verdel	14	Fitzpatrick Jim	10	17
Becker Carol & Rich	12	19	Carlson Samantha & Wendy	33	187	Deiningering Beverly	15	Fleming Mary Jo	25	58
Becker Dave & Patti	43	158	Cartwright Theresa	15	44	Delaney Lane	23	Fonger Dave	52	343
Beckman Joni	12	16	Carve Joni	24	68	DeLong Bruce	24	Fonk/Somdahl Fran/Nancy	25	44
Behnke Dan	2	8	Cashman Janet Sue	31	83	Denor Dan	7	Foote-Martin Mark & Sue	56	0
Beix Wendy	27	50	Caslavka Curt & Arlys	21	42	DeVetter Joanne	42	Foote-Martin Mark & Sue	37	35
Beix James & Dorothy	101	197	Casper Larry	72	401	Dirks Rich	9	Ford Hilary	6	9
Beix James & Dorothy		177	Cates Kim	16	49	Dixon	2	Forsythe Carol	11	24
Benada Robert & Deb	16	20	Caulum Harry & Ellen	20	82	Doverspike/Anderson		Fort Mike	31	114
Benchina Louis	24	56	Cerinich Victoria	3	17	Brian/Becky	23	Foss Brad	8	14
Benzschawel Al	25	39	Chambers Diane	37	143	Dreikosen Kathleen	29	Fox Bob	167	277
			Champeau Perry	8	9	Dreikosen Kathleen	60	Fox Bob		456



Fredrickson Kathy	5	11	Maureen/Joyce	12	12	Mennen Carol	7	5	Schultz Warren	9	13
Freeman Jack	2	0	Kaufmann/Anderson		12	Meyer John	63	48	Schultz Joe	45	213
Freyman Sarah	2	0	Keyel Sally	24	59	Meyer Rodger	65	219	Schultz Daniel	11	12
Frohling Joni	7	27	Khan Menuna	72	157	Michelson Tom	29	39	Schumacher Nicki	3	4
Fruin William	15	67	King Kathleen	32	15	Miezio Madelynn	16	25	Schwisow Cindy & Jim	2	2
Ganfield Thomas	1	9	Kirschbaum Dennis	15	81	Miller Ed & Sandy	18	25	Seybold Bill & Jan	35	84
Gavahan Karen	15	10	Klawiter Paul	27	104	Misterek Dave	29	72	Sharkozy	14	4
Gavahan	15	14	Kleinschmidt Gwyn	5	16	Moody Dale & Doris	84	298	Sharkozy	14	24
Gelbach Steve	29	121	Klingbeil Jerry	3	4	Moody Dale & Doris		42	Sherman Bradley	44	134
Gerndt Jerry	86	30	Klusmeier Ellen	15	2	Moore Mike	44	259	Shutt Nicole	116	185
Gerndt Jerry		23	Knudson Tim	10	36	Moran Mike	36	84	Sieracki Michael	5	6
Gerndt Jerry		68	Konrath Dennis & Ralph	30	54	Mox Greg & Annette	2	16	SleOak Marilyn	20	66
Gerndt Jerry		15	Kozak Katie	31	122	Neisner Darlene	18	93	Smith Keith	25	9
Gerndt Jerry		52	Krrowicz John	43	39	Nelson Don	9	27	Smith Keith		5
Glanzman Terry	439	2110	Kronenberg James	9	4	Nelson Don		10	Smith		53
Glew Raymond	32	130	Kronsnabel Ilene & Paul	35	57	Noeldner Paul	2	11	Sobol Mary	18	19
Goodno Jim	27	21	Krouse Kathy	12	33	Oehmcke Lynne & Chuck	4	3	Somdahl/Fonk	25	78
Goran Jerry	5	23	Krueger Dean	3	4	Oleson Kathy	6	9	Sommer Joan	25	80
Gottfredsen Mike	12	21	Krueger Greg & Annette	20	152	Onsrud Signe	103	239	Sprout Steve	66	55
Grajkowski Stacy & Elijah	10	20	Krzyston/Moretti Ellen/Anne	13	22	Ontl Benjamin	39	158	Stehling Bill & Donna	60	128
Grimes Tom & Lynn	37	175	Kugler, Jr. Walter	2	14	Orban Alan & Melody	24	20	Stehling Bill & Donna		0
Gross Scott & Tracey	18	26	Lafouge Ellen	31	135	Orban		15	Stencel Paul	2	0
Grossnickle Nad & Mary	23	95	Laing Mickie	10	10	Orban		5	Stephen Kent	25	23
Gundry Rita	29	109	Lancaster Albert	2	10	Osinski Raymond	1	7	Stephens/Bratz Dick/Mary	31	116
Gundry Rita	10	9	Lane Chris & Bob	29	99	Palenik Raymond	46	76	Stoffel Tim	24	30
Hall Kent	155	606	Lang Howard	14	18	Palmer Corinne	8	5	Tabor Pete	1	9
Hall Sue	39	206	LaPine Phyllis	30	61	Parker Ronald	1	8	Tamm Bob	40	39
Hamer Bonnie	26	9	Larson Kayval	1	0	Peterson Glenna	2	5	Tamm Bob		74
Handrick Pat	11	30	Lautermilch/Kmieciak			Peterson Lowell	29	142	Teich Benny	58	80
Hansen/Gerndt Dick/Jerry	24	76	Charlie/Bessie	47	396	Peterson Harry	7	18	Thomas Ruby	15	24
Hanson John	13	31	Leary John	8	32	Petznick Steve	17	54	Thornton Kim	14	85
Hansotia Marilyn	17	34	Leveque	7	18	Petznick Steve		5	Tolokken Leif	50	265
Haralson Karen	30	132	Liegel Lawrence	48	74	Pinter Raymond	67	93	Tuch Dave & Barbara	11	10
Hardtke Kathryn	5	13	Liegel Lawrence		126	Place Leonard	40	110	Tuttle David	4	5
Heiden John & Patricia	73	70	Lindahl Jacqueline	10	61	Pope Nolan	11	29	Tyni Judioth	4	15
Heiden John & Patricia		32	Lins Kevin	4	8	Pope Gee	38	177	Van Den Heuvel Amber	17	12
Heilman Pam	5	17	Loehlein John	69	24	Powers Albert	15	17	Van Den Heuvel Cordula	12	27
Helgren Mike & Ellen	42	256	Loehlein Ken		18	Pray David & Pauline	19	68	Van Haren Gail	15	43
Hellgren Bengt	23	52	Londowski Jan	10	13	Pritzl Don	70	176	VanTassle Penny	37	145
Hermodson Mavis	18	29	Lubinsky Stephanie	14	46	Pugh/Knorr	18	56	Vaughan Kristine	22	75
Hess Jim & Marci	26	103	Lucey David	30	90	Raboin Joe	15	8	Volkman Chad & Shelly	16	63
Higgins Jim	20	56	Ludwigson Jason	13	37	Ready Pat	5	22	Volkman Donald	5	5
High Wyleen & Clark	12	48	Lueck Gena	3	5	Ready Mike	3	4	Walters Debby	13	8
Hirsch Vicki & John	1	10	Lukes Roy & Charlotte	27	83	Reedy Phyl	8	13	Warner Melissa	4	7
Hoffman Skip	24	86	Lukes Wendy	31	47	Reitz (Family) Josh	37	178	Watt Joe	2	0
Hoffman S	24	86	Lyons Eugene	24	87	Reitz Tom & Amy	47	210	Weber Frank	3	5
Hoffman J	11	27	Madden Mike	4	0	Richmond Kent	25	0	Weber Gordon	33	124
Holleback Mary	28	31	Madsen Joanne	2	9	Riemer Sally	14	10	Weber Gordy	80	581
Hottz Bob	2	8	Malzacher Cathy	36	201	Rieves Ginny	10	21	Wenzel Paul	33	69
Hoy Joanne	1	5	Mand/Beck Tom/Kathy	6	14	Roberts Dave	10	40	Wenzel		5
Huset David	10	43	Mann Valerie	16	10	Rohde Deb	8	0	Wheeler Elisabeth	7	0
Ihlenfeldt Amy	23	12	Mann		10	Romanak Claire	30	114	Wiberley-Bradford Amy E.	9	24
Jacobs Kip	8	44	Marek Silva	15	40	Romskog Gordon	20	50	Wick Anne	150	567
Jakusz Jim & Darlene	37	160	Marion Bruce & Ruth	27	158	Ronchetto Jan	14	52	Wickstrom/Bleu Eric/Dennis	25	45
Janisch Isaiah	14	9	Marking Leif	125	587	Rose Cindy	1	7	Wildes Linda	16	104
Jensen Marianne	30	55	Marshall Kim	18	49	Rosenstiel Stan	15	8	Willing	15	29
Jensen Marianne	1	7	Martin Vicki	8	9	Rosenstiel/Krrowicz	15	8	Wood Jolie	11	15
Jensen Dala & Karen	33	128	Martion Miesha	16	5	Rothman Rick & Sharon	36	151	Woodman Tracy & Faith	60	381
Jensen Dennis & Heather	41	21	Marwitz David & Kelly	230	88	Rueckheim Kelly	15	21	Zar Erika	21	43
Jensen		21	Marwitz David & Kelly		693	Ruhser Jeanne	9	38	Ziehr Bill & Jill	29	94
Johnson Karen	12	23	Marwitz David & Kelly		93	Saltes Jack	22	55	ZimmermanStephen	12	44
Johnson Michael	18	74	Mathey Ray & Bev.	8	15	Sample Steve & Susie	31	91	Zinda Brad	41	226
Johnson Shelly	18	15	Mawbey Jeanne	8	0	Sampson Avery	7	11			
Jost Walter	35	82	Mayer Steve	95	66	Schaldach Fred	13	42	<i>Duplicate names would indicate additional separate trails. Some of the large totals are county coordinators or multi-trail reports. Some of the missing first names are the product of the method the report was received.</i>		
Jostad Morgan	13	24	Mayer Steve		151	Schapfel Bill	20	77			
Juracka Bob & Laurie	3	11	McDaniel Carol & John	44	177	Schlag Jerry	11	17			
Karth Ken & Megan	66	9	McGinley Mark & Jenny	14	4	Schleitwiler Steve	7	0			
Karth Ken & Megan		80	McGinnis Jan & Ted	89	476	Schleitwiler Steve		3			
Karth Ken & Megan		88	McLead Chantel	2	5	Schneide Michael	5	0			
Kastner Shari	13	7	McNeil Melissa	14	48	Schoenwetter Ruth	12	42			
Kastner Shari	11	23	Meiers Ruth Ann	38	150	Schreiber Lora	16	4			
Kauffmann/Anderson			Melius Arthur	6	9	Schroeder Julie	1	8			

## The County Coordinator News By Carol McDaniel

Bluebirds are a distant thought with the near below zero temperatures here in Darlington today on January 17. Even so, several of the BRAW county coordinators are busy in their areas making spring plans for promoting the bluebirds and BRAW. After a break from CC duties, Gene Birr from Oconto County is back as CC. Read about what he is planning for the spring below.

**Mary Holleback from Washington County** reports: This was the first time since 2003 that we did not see a bluebird on our Christmas Bird Count. Mary comments, "The weather was mild all the way up until the count so I expected to see bluebirds that day but we did see 150 robins."

Mary is the compiler for the Newburg (formerly Riveredge) Christmas Bird Count which took place on Sat. Dec. 19th. An Anna's hummingbird was reported and documented that day by Dan Panetti in Cedarburg. Dan is the owner of the Mequon Wild Birds Unlimited store. The hummingbird has been in the area since October and has been banded by local bander, Mickey O'Connor. It was only the second time in WI Bird Count history that an Anna's was documented. There were three reported in WI this fall. See photo.

**Kent Hall from Wood, Portage, Waupaca and Monroe Counties** reports for the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society Trail for the 2015 season: All 1,425 of our nest boxes were repaired this fall, the first time there has been a make-over for our boxes in five years. In 2015, we produced 8,717 songbirds, highest in our history. This production included 6,453 bluebirds (2nd high in history), 1659 Tree Swallows (highest), 237 wrens, and 368 chickadees (highest).

The 263 boxes at Ft. McCoy raised an average of 7 bluebirds per box. Based on the records I keep, that is the highest average ever achieved in Wisconsin for a trail of over 100 boxes.

**Rod Courtier from Rock County** reports: I have signed BRAW up for a booth at the Evansville Energy Fair,

April 22, 2016 from 4:30 to 8:00 pm at the school field house at 320 Fair Street in Evansville Wisconsin. Last year nearly 2,000 people attended the fair and were informed about conservation, energy resources, sustainability, and our environment. This has become one of the biggest family events in the community and has received national attention for the high level of community involvement.

This year's line-up of guests and entertainment is sure to be fun for the whole family. I will be there to talk with people about bluebirding and BRAW.

**Claire Romanak from Marathon County:** Claire reports while on vacation in a warmer climate: There were loads of bluebirds in Tennessee and Louisiana but we're in Yuma now, none here :(

**Patrick Ready from Dane County** reports: For my Dane Co CC report I spent fall redoing the trail at Badger Prairie Park near Verona. Fixing old boxes and replacing some. I added a few in areas I thought were good for bluebirds but had none. I contacted the Madison Parks Dept and jumped through required hoops and got permission to put in a new trail at Elver Park on the southwest side of the city. Elver park is Madison's largest park and the west end where the baseball and soccer fields are located are ideal for bluebirds! I recruited a friend to be the monitor there and she and I mounted 9 nest boxes in perfect habitat. In late fall I saw several bluebirds in the park and a few were checking out the nest boxes. A good omen for sure! At the Garden Expo I will give my Attracting Bluebird presentation on both Saturday & Sunday. I will also be at the BRAW Booth on Sunday. In March I will be giving the same presentation at the Wild Birds Unlimited store on Madison's west side. We usually have 2 presentations to about 50 attendees. I have 5 other trails in Dane Co that I manage and made a few repairs and adjustments before winter set in. I'm looking forward to the new nesting season.

**Larry Liegel from Sauk County** reports: I observed lingering BBs in late November around late deer archery season, most likely due to warmer than usual weather. I normally build

my extra BB boxes in February/early March for the coming season, but I have them all built and ready to go for Spring 2016. I have a dozen ready for installing. It was a perfect temperature working in the garage in December. For Xmas gifts, I gave one each to two friends, one in Hillpoint, Sauk County and one in Eau Claire, where I live. Stan Rosenstiel from Racing/Washburn Counties: (The following was sent to Stan from Rick Fare of Racine when Stan requested information for the CC column.)

Three years ago I talked about bluebirds with Joe Ranchel, the park superintendent at Petrifying Springs Co Park in Kenosha. He was very excited about setting up a bluebird trail in the park. I rode with him and picked out some areas in the park I thought would be good locations for some boxes. He built and installed 8 boxes in 2014. In addition he installed 3 more in a county park in Brighton. In 2015 these 11 boxes fledged out 38 BBs and 28 TSs. In 2015, he had an Eagle Scout build and install a trail at the Kenosha Co Center on Hwy50. This trail will be monitored in 2016. He also has plans to install a trail at the Kenosha Detention Center. In addition, Joe has built and installed 4 screech owl and 1 wood duck box in Petrifying Springs Park. He also has installed and keeps bird feeders stocked throughout the year in the park.

**Leif Marking from Lacrosse County** reports: I presented a BB video and brief discussion at our theater yesterday with about 25 attendees. Fred Craig was on the video and present also. Fred helped to place five boxes on the property and they have had some success so they are interested in more bluebirds. I have two more BB programs and one Wood Duck program on the Spring schedule. I explained that since I'm nearly 81 and being one of the younger of the residents that I was not recruiting trail monitors but only here to inform and entertain them. They were appreciative. (Leif has moved, so notice his new address.) Leif Marking, 351 Mason St Apt 220, Onalaska WI 54650

**Bob Tamm from Waukesha/Milwaukee Counties:** Bob gathered a group of bluebirders for a winter bluebird get together on January 16 at the Machine



Shed in Waukesha. Here is what he has to say. "Hey BLUEBIRDERS! I wanted to send out a big THANK-YOU to all of you that ventured out in the cold to meet at the Machine Shed. I think the venue really worked out well... we were not rushed through - and we got to spend 2 to 2.5 hours with good friends... and got to know some of the others better also. A total of 18 were there, and we would have gone over 20 except for a couple late cancellations. It was good to see all of you again!!! And to those who couldn't make it (or declined) hey, we just might do this again down the road, so you get another chance! I've attached a few pics... thanks again for taking time from your busy weekend to join us... it was SO fun!" See photo.

**Lowell Peterson from St. Croix** reports that he is lining up a couple of bluebird sessions for this spring. One will be in March where he will be presenting to the Community Education Organization in his area. He is also working on getting more youth involved in BRAW. BRAW's Long Range Plan has set a goal for youth involvement and Lowell is the project chairman.

**Carol McDaniel from Lafayette County** reports: I will be speaking on March 16 on Bluebird Day at the Bluebird Nest Nature Center in Darlington on the topic of Best Nest Box Mounting Methods. The Lafayette County Bluebird Society is holding its Spring Meeting on April 2, from 2:00-5:00 pm at the Towne Bank Community Room in Darlington. Around 50 people attend. We have a featured speaker, blind auction and refreshments. On April 17, Our Town is held in Darlington and LCBS will have a booth and include BRAW handouts along with its other promotions.

Gene Birr from Oconto County reports: I have continued to pursue my bluebird activities working with Steve Mayer. He and I are giving a presentation for a bird club in New London on April 2, as part of his work as Outagamie County Coordinator, as well.

## Rebecca's Orphans

By Leif Marking

Near the end of the 2015 nesting season I received a frantic call asking for help with bluebirds. Rebecca Brown, near West Salem Wisconsin, had gotten my name from a raptor center. They referred her to me because they did not work with songbirds. "What seems to be the problem?" I asked. She explained the happy bluebird pair chose to nest in a ceramic planter that hung from a pine branch near her house. She had observed them busily feeding their hatchlings until one day the female failed to appear. The male bluebird continued to feed the youngsters, but he couldn't keep up with the appetite of the noisy nestlings. So, Rebecca started to offer mealworms by dangling them in the large entry with a tweezers. The hungry nestlings quickly adapted to the new food source. Then she discovered the male bluebird dead on the ground with no apparent signs of injury or trauma. Rebecca felt inadequate to carry on full-time parenting after both parent bluebirds had perished, and so she was calling me for help.



We discussed the dilemma briefly and decided to foster the chicks to bluebirds that were parenting their own nestlings about the same age. Boxes number 24 and 25 each had two chicks that were about 15 days old and similar in size to the orphans. These boxes were located on Marking Ridge only about six miles from Rebecca's home and about two miles from our farm. She placed the ceramic fixture in her car, and we met at the orphan's new home site where we began the transfer.

The single-piece planter could not be opened so we had to remove the contents through the entry hole. The nesting material was quite messy since the parent bluebirds were not present to remove fecal material during the last few days. Rebecca knew there were four nestlings in the structure, but they were reluctant to appear in the entrance. I noticed some wing feathers in the wet nesting material, and as I removed them they were attached to the missing female bluebird. She had apparently died on the nest, but deterioration prevented me from determining the cause of death. Rebecca's smaller hands retrieved three healthy nestlings from the large entry. We found the fourth nestling dead as the nest material was pulled from the structure.

We placed two of the nestlings in box 25 and one was placed in box 24 on Wednesday and by Saturday all the nestlings in those boxes had fledged. Thanks to Rebecca for her interest and actions to ensure the survival of three more bluebirds that will migrate and return to West Salem next spring.

## A Winter Break: Bluebirder' Breakfast Beats the Winter Blahs!

By Bob Tamm

Anyone who has lived in Wisconsin for any length of time knows that after all the wonderful holidays are past us, the dreary days of January and February take over. Winter in Wisconsin is actually a beautiful time of year, but the cold days do force many of us to spend more time than maybe we'd like to indoors, rather than outdoors. Twenty-below wind chills have a lot to do with that. So, with that in mind, I decided to see if there were some winter-weary bluebirders out there who may want to warm up at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Waukesha County. So the invitation went out. There are about 35 or so active BRAW bluebirders, plus a few spouses that help out, here in southeast Wisconsin, so I was pretty confident that I should be able to interest enough people to make the event worth it. I targeted Sat., January 16th as the meeting time – and as it turned out, I was thrilled that eighteen of us showed up, including our BRAW president, Pat Ready. I had a few late cancellations due to circumstances, or the total would have gone well over twenty. The Machine Shed was more than willing to put us up in a nice cozy area and leisurely enjoy a nice breakfast and lots of conversation...much of it about (you guessed it) bluebirds! The restaurant also did not hurry us out, so many of us wound up spending two to two and a half hours solving many of the world's problems; well, ok, at least bluebird problems. I'm pretty sure from comments I've received that everyone had a good time, so we just might have to repeat this again down the road - especially when the long days of winter start to take their toll!



### New (and returning) Members Join BRAW

Membership includes a subscription to the *Wisconsin Bluebird* and a copy of the *BRAW Information Pack*. Two great bluebird educational materials for monitors from 1 nest box to 100+. Consider a gift sub to someone you think would enjoy bluebirds.

**Cindy Schreier** – Wausau – *Gift Sub from Lyle Krautkramer*

**Bruce & Jerrilyn Brewer** – Sparta

**Kathy King** – Monroe – *Gift Sub from Kathleen Dreikosen*

**Charles Zarnoth** – New Holstein

**Matthew & Josiah Gehrke** – Wisconsin Dells – *Gift sub from Myron & Joan Byers*

**Debra Bacon** – Mukwonago

**Kris Houck** – West Salem – *Gift Sub from Scott Kinninger*

**Andy Garcia-Rivera** – Madison – *Gift Sub from Steve Sample*

**Gene Kroupa** – Madison – *Gift Sub from Steve Sample*

**Susannah Sample** – Madison – *Gift Sub from Steve Sample*

*Gift Subs from Gene Birr –*

**Brown Cty Chapter of the Izaak Walton League** – DePere

**Erv Mathes** – Gillett

**Lena Pathfinders** – Lena

**Wenzel Swagel** – Depere

**William & Shirley Lundberg** - Poplar

### Donations –

\$50 - **Life member, Steve Pearson** – LaCrosse

\$75 – **Michael & Kathryn Swederske** - Omro



# BRAW Inc. Treasurer's Report 2015

By Mike Helgren, BRAW Treasurer

Checking Account		<b>11,780.58</b>
Money Market		<b>5,702.77</b>
Annuity 2015 4.9%--3% Average		<b>12,602.59</b>
CD 7132009389 6/06/11 1.50%		<b>10,249.29</b>
Total Assets on January 1, 2013		<b>40,335.23</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>Jan. 1 – Dec. 31.</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Individual/family memberships	7,715.00	9,000
Life memberships	1,500.00	900
Corporate memberships	100.00	100
Donations	686.00	1,000
State Convention auction	0	0
State Convention meals	0	0
Cafe Press	30.55	100
CD interest income	66.35	80
Annuity AMT1004777	333.83	375
Nest box - Accessories	1,480.70	600
Nest box trails (sponsor)	625.00	300
Information packets	155.00	200
Educational resources	0	0
Other (Decals, WB, Quads, Nest ID)	389.08	125
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>13,246.51</b>	<b>14,680</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
State Convention	0	1,600
Membership coordinator fee	599.00	599
County coordinators/workshops	78.88	500
Editor fee	5,000.00	5,000
Administrative (checks/fees)	243.93	75
Postage--general	369.88	500
Postage--newsletter	899.99	1000
Printing--newsletter	4,513.11	5,000
Printing--Information packets	0	0
Website	145.00	125
Madison Garden Expo	0	0
Promotional programs	1,029.54	1000
Nest box materials, traps, guards	353.10	200
Nest box trail building	977.53	1000
Non-profit tax exempt fee	10.00	10
Quad folder	0	0
Donations and Contributions	950.00	750
BOD meeting: Rental & Misc.	80.00	60
Other	588.09	100
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,838.05</b>	<b>18,344</b>
<b>Checking Account</b>		<b>8,786.78</b>
<b>Money Market</b>		<b>5,704.85</b>
<b>CD 7132009389 6/06/11 1.50%</b>		<b>10,315.64</b>
<b>Annuity 2015 4.9%--3% average</b>		<b>12,936.42</b>
<b>Total Assets on December 31, 2013</b>		<b>37,743.69</b>

## Tax Deductible Contributions??

The Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization. Donations to BRAW are tax deductible. However, an annual or life membership is not tax deductible as goods and/or services are received for that money. The best example of *goods* is the Wisconsin Bluebird publication that each member receives. Some examples of services are state convention speakers, BRAW sponsored workshops, and the work of the membership chairperson. When making a membership payment, a considerable number of BRAW members write a check for more than the \$20.00 for subscription/membership. Any amount over the \$20.00 would be tax deductible.

If you have questions regarding whether a contribution is tax deductible, you should check with your accountant, tax preparer, or IRS.

Michael Helgren  
BRAW Treasurer

## A Picture is Worth a 1000 Words

By Patrick Ready, WB Editor



**A basement  
for storage?**



**Fixer-  
Upper?**

# Management practices endorsed by BRAW

by Kent Hall

Use these helpful tips for placing nest boxes and for monitoring purposes throughout the season.

## Location, Location, Location:

- 1) Need a territorial forage area of 1-3 acres of predominantly open habitat
- 2) Ideal sites: short, sparse grass with interspersed trees: cemeteries, golf courses, parks, business parks, bike trails, RR tracks
- 3) Boxes should be totally exposed to sunlight from sunrise until noon; thereafter, shading is permissible
- 4) Perch sites:
  - a) One or more trees (10' ideal) within 100' (preferably closer) to the front or to one side of nest box (most hunting starts on a perch and these trees are vital for use as survival perches when chicks first fledge)
  - b) Fences (barbed, electric, wooden)
  - c) Electrical wires (no more than 30' high preferred), clothes lines
- 5) Noisy sites okay (interstates, other roadways, railroads, temporary air shows, church picnics)
- 6) Roadways with limited traffic can be ideal nest box sites and adults and young chicks are rarely killed by traffic.

## Relocation:

- 1) Change the nest box position if there has been no bluebird nesting attempt in a season OR
- 2) Change by the end of the following April (75-90% of nest boxes have been occupied by bluebirds by then); if no nesting has occurred by the end of April your 2nd nesting season, it is a sign that your site is unappealing to bluebirds. But moving them to better nest sites still gives you a 50:50 chance of occupancy for the season.

## Box Style/Dimensions:

- 1) In 'the wild', bluebirds prefer to occupy old woodpecker holes that are not usually very large or deep
- 2) Shallow, narrow boxes work best:
  - a) 4-5" below the bottom of the hole as maximum depth
  - b) 4 x 4", 4 x 5" nesting platform (inside dimensions)
- 3) No vents or keep vents closed until June 1 to prevent windchill from killing eggs and/or chicks. The summer of 2012 showed that high temperatures can kill chicks in nest boxes. But cold weather has still proven to be more damaging than heat. Since it is likely that the changing climate assures high summer temperatures in the future, we recommend monitors consider making their boxes "convertible" by dropping side doors in the summer and replacing them at the end of the season. For Peterson boxes, holes can be drilled at the top of one side and a piece of "lathe board" placed over them until June 1. A single or pair of screws can be used to seal the openings during spring. The main thing to do here is to produce air circulation to prevent heat buildup as in an attic. On the other hand, in the southwestern part of the state where black flies are a problem, screens should be placed over the openings to prevent ease of black fly entry.



Jack Bartholmai

- 4) Oval hole small enough to keep out starlings & cowbirds
- 5) Don't use predator guards on box fronts (too thick for bluebirds) or perches on boxes (used by predator birds such as sparrows & kestrels). Instead, use a predator guard on your mounting post or make the mounting post your predator guard (3/4" electrical conduit preferred).

## Spacing:

- 1) Space no closer than 100-200 yards (1-3 acre territories needed); encourages Tree Swallow occupation if boxes are placed closer than this

- 2) Pairing reduces bluebird and increases swallow production/box

## Nest, Egg & Chick Removal for bluebirds, chickadees, Tree Swallows (1,2,3,4) and House Wrens (4): Procedures approved by USFWS in Dec., 2006

- 1) Partial or complete nests w/o eggs: 1st week; 2nd, 3rd weeks no change, then remove; restart week count if more building occurs; if wet, remove, replace with dry, fine grass or pine needles (white pine preferred)
- 2) touch eggs each week; if they are warm, they are being incubated; if they then turn cold, they have been abandoned and are dead; to test your judgment, remove a single egg and crack it open. If the egg is viable (has a moving embryo), leave the remaining eggs—but if the embryo does not move (= dead) or the egg is empty, remove cold eggs and nest.
- 3) It is also possible for dead eggs to be incubated well after they should have hatched (up to four weeks), and are warm to the touch. Leaving eggs in a nest this long simply "robs" the nesting pair of precious time in the season when they could be rebuilding a productive nest. To prevent this problem, estimate the date for the last egg being laid (one egg is laid/day). Add 19 days to that date (14 for incubation; 5 for a delay in incubation) and when the monitoring date hits the 19 days or beyond, remove a single egg and repeat the procedure in #2).
- 4) Chicks starving/lethargic: foster into nests with chicks of similar age, + or - 2 days [place with slightly younger, if possible]: 85% reared by adoptive parents in a 4-year study by the ALAS in central WI
- 5) House Wrens Only: If a partial nest of sticks is in your nest box the 1st week, remove them; the 2nd week remove them and tape the opening. In two weeks, open the box and repeat. The 2nd taping should be left until the end of the season because no other species can nest in the box in the territory of a wren or you can choose to allow the wren to complete its nesting. If egg cup or eggs are found at any time, you should allow the natural cycle to continue.

## Common Predators of Bluebirds: Raccoons, House Sparrows and Black Flies:

- 1) Do not put boxes on wooden fence or electrical posts. The

cheapest and most convenient mounting system uses 3/4" electrical conduit. Cut 10' conduit to 6'-8" lengths. Flatten 4" at end and bury 18" of conduit. To the remaining 5' conduit attach two 3/4" clamps and screw to box. Two 3/4" pieces can be joined with a coupler to make a 6'-8" post.

2) **Raccoons:** In the summer of 2012, Leif Marking and assistants videotaped raccoons climbing fence posts covered with PVC tubing. Previously, it was thought that such protected posts could not be climbed by them. It was also thought that one could detect raccoon predation raids by nesting materials being pulled from boxes. The Marking team found that raccoons could remove eggs and pop them into their mouths like we do M & M's without removing nesting materials. Numerous monitors ask me what causes the loss of eggs with the nest left perfectly intact. We must now suspect that many of these losses are due to raccoons. To prevent raids of your nest boxes by raccoons, two preventive measures are suggested: A) Use steel wool or a wire brush to smooth off oxidized PVC and/or B) smear car wax paste on the post.

3) **House Sparrows** are exotic, introduced species from Europe. They have no legal protection from the USFWS in North America. They have a strong, seed crushing beak that easily out-competes the slender/weaker insect-eating beak of other songbirds. The best way to prevent these pests from occupying your nest boxes is to keep them away from livestock (especially cattle) or homes with feeders using millet and/or cracked corn as these locations attract large numbers. But these pests can fly up to 1/2 mile to occupy a box, so considerable habitat is lost to nest boxes unless another alternate is used. And the best alternative is a Van Ert trap (**VanErt Sparrow traps:** 22684 US Highway 69, Leon, Iowa 50144, 641-446-6471, fvanert@grm.net, [www.vanerttraps.com](http://www.vanerttraps.com) (cost is about \$10 + S&H) Van Ert traps are easy to insert and highly effective when used properly. They should be set only when the sparrow is building a nest or has already constructed one. Then, all nesting materials should be removed from the box (including eggs). Usually, the male is trapped and that is a good thing because he is the "enticer" of the female. Trapping a female is not as effective as the male will just attract another female. Rarely, both are trapped together. To dispose of the sparrow, put a clear, plastic sack (held tight at the bottom) over the nest box. Open the door and the sparrow flutters out and can be penned against the side of the box and then disposed of. In 60-75% of the time, only one trapping is necessary to clear up the nest box for protected songbirds. In two years of ALAS studies, almost 100% of boxes with removed sparrows have produced young from other songbirds, mainly bluebirds. The major problem faced by trapping sparrows is how long to leave the traps in place. I use two approaches: A) Set trap and return after monitoring the rest of my boxes or B) Set trap and return the next day. By that time, the sparrows are dead, but if you have trapped a swallow or bluebird, they will still be alive and can be released unharmed. My experience is this: "Leaving traps in nest boxes rarely leads to the deaths of accidentally trapped but protected songbirds, if the trap is left unmonitored no longer than 12 hours".

4) **Black flies** are a menace like no other to cavity nesting songbirds. In Wisconsin, blackflies are limited mainly to the southwestern, driftless areas of the state. The counties there have many slow-moving but low-pollution streams that are ideal for production of black flies. Female black flies are the real culprit

of this insect. Like female mosquitoes, they are attracted by CO2 given off by incubating hens or immobile chicks and bite them for a blood meal. Females are driven off their eggs by the persistent biting of black flies but chicks can't get away from black flies and are killed by dozens of black fly bites. Anyone who finds a brood of chicks killed by black flies will not soon forget it. But we now have a way to prevent black fly deaths. It's best to use Permethrin-10 poultry insecticide. Dilute it to 0.50% concentration and place it into an aspirator bottle such as a "Windex Bottle". When you find black flies around your nest box (swarms hover like a large fruit fly) use this protocol to prevent the hen from abandoning the nest box and the death of the chicks: A) spray the opening and all cracks on the box, both inside and out B) if there are eggs in the nest, put a small, clear jar over the eggs and spray the nest thoroughly C) if there are chicks in the nest, make sure they are at least 3 days of age—mist thoroughly (spray does not harm the eyes) D) the 2nd week, spray the hole and cracks on the outside of the box only, again plus the nest if the eggs have not hatched and spray the chicks for the 2nd and final time. If you recognize that black flies are being attracted to your boxes, you can almost eliminate blackfly problems entirely, if you use these techniques.

### Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers can cause great destruction to nest boxes as they use them as roost-sites in fall, winter and early spring. Hairy Woodpeckers occupy boxes the most followed by Downy Woodpeckers. We have tried to keep woodpeckers out of our boxes by placing thin wafers of aluminum or 1/4" plastic over the damaged holes. Nothing has worked well as woodpeckers have the striking ability to "chisel" materials used to patch the damage. Heavier metal can be used, but is too costly to be useful for large trails. The only practical solution is to leave the boxes open in the winter to keep woodpeckers out (even then, they sometimes do damage). We use wire to keep the doors open as "good Samaritans" walking past boxes completely open, sometimes close them as an act of good will during the winter (Fig. 5). Wires can be unwrapped and boxes closed on March 15 to accommodate early arriving bluebirds. These wires can also be used to keep lids open for a week after the first bluebird has fledged to increase the likelihood that the bluebird will produce a 2nd brood. Another advantage to keeping the boxes open during the winter is that chickadees and House Sparrows do not use the boxes for roost sites during the winter. This approach levels the playing field for bluebirds coming to nest in the early weeks of the season.

### Direction of Opening:

- 1) Keep away from prevailing westerly winds (cools boxes)
- 2) Use the same direction for all boxes
- 3) Cornell University has determined that directing the opening of a nest box to the northeast, east or southeast improves the fledging rate of Eastern Bluebirds in northern latitudes. Apparently, boxes pointed in that direction, heat up more quickly in the mornings in cold weather but do not collect as much heat from a southern exposure in summer.



Fig. 5. Wiring boxes open to prevent woodpecker damage.

**Individual Nestbox Weekly Field Record**  
**Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

Name _____	Year _____	Box design name (See sketches on back of form for some of the most productive box designs)
Mailing address City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (     ) _____	Height of hole: _____ (distance to ground in nearest 1/2 foot)	
Location of box _____ (including distance from reference points)	County _____	

**Box support** (circle one): 1. T metal post 2. U metal post 3. Conduit rebar 4. Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Was a predator guard used on this box?** (circle one) 1. PVC tube 2. Rain gutter 3. stove pipe 4. Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat** (circle best description): 1. Grassland 2. Pasture 3. Orchard 4. Fence row 5. Cultivated field 6 Forest edge  
 7. Suburban 8. Building site 9. Wetland Other \_\_\_\_\_

Date of visit	Check made by	Is nest present	Number of eggs	Est. date of hatch	Number of young	Number fledged	Bird species	Comments: (Condition of young, parasites, predation, banding, future box repair, encroachment of woody vegetation, observation, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ The U.S.F.W.S. guidelines for active nests were followed while monitoring the nests of all songbird species during my / our study.

**Please send in your end of season data to: Data Summary Director,**

**Box Number**

Date of visit	Check made by	Is nest present	Number of eggs	Est. date of hatch	Number of young	Number fledged	Bird species	Comments: (Condition of young, parasites, predation, banding, future box repair, encroachment of woody vegetation, observation, etc.)

**Additional Comments:**

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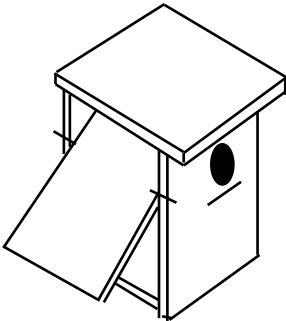
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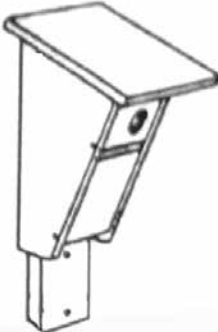
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**Instructions:** Consolidate your data at the end of the nesting season from this BRAW, Inc. Form 22, Individual Nestbox Weekly Record and enter it on BRAW EZ Summary Form. Send your summarized data by September 15 to **Data Summary Director**,

Many box types are being used by Wisconsin bluebirders. But only the following box types had averages above the 3.5 bluebird fledglings per box for the 2008 season: K-Box, NABS-Style and Peterson.



NABS style



Peterson



Use this form for membership, gift membership or to renew your membership. Life members do not need to renew each year. Please notify us of address change.

## Wisconsin Bluebird Subscription and BRAW, Inc. Membership

Yes! I would like to renew 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:

- \$20 individual or Family
- \$25 Contributing Annual
- \$100 Corporate Annual
- \$300 Life Membership

Print clearly

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 educational research (Master's thesis)
- 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
- This is a GIFT subscription.

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

Mail this membership/subscription request to:  
BRAW, Inc.  
c/o Sue Schultz  
5221 Cheryl's Dr.  
Plover, WI 54467

Please note: This form appears in this newsletter as a convenience for all who wish to obtain membership. Membership renewals are due as of January 1 each year. The BRAW, Inc. bylaws stipulate that the winter issue (December issue) of Wisconsin Bluebird newsletter of the new year will be the last issue sent if your membership is not renewed before the Spring issue is printed.

### BRAW ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS

● **President Patrick Ready**, 3117 Stratton Way #112, Madison, WI 53719 • 608/239-0791 • birdsready@gmail.com (term to 12/16)

● **Vice President Steve Sample**, 422 Shepard Ter. Madison, WI 53705 • 708/606-8070 (term to 12/16)

● **Secretary Patricia Heiden**, W399 S5484 County Road Z, Dousman, WI 53118 • 262/495-8595 brdbndr@centurytel.net. (term to 12/16)

● **Treasurer, Mike Helgren**, 1013 Georgetown Circle, Beaver Dam, WI 53916 • 920/885-4050 mhelgren@charter.net (term to 12/15)

● **Director Fred Craig**, 3308 Nathan Lane, Holmen WI 54636 • 608/783-2225 266marycraig@gmail.com (term to 12/15)

● **Director Claire Romanak**, 7175 Nehrbass Rd.; Athens, WI 54411 • 715/257-1905 • ribriver2@wildblue.net (Term to 12/16):

● **Director, Brad Zinda**, Stevens Point, WI • 3416 So Marie Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481 • (715)570-9587 • brdzinda@charter.net (term to 12/18)

● **Director, Steve Fallon**, Oregon, WI • 974 Halcyon Days Ct., Oregon, WI. 53575 • scfallon@charter.net (term to 12/18)

### APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

● **County Coordinator Chair: Carol McDaniel** 14953 State Road 23, Darlington, WI 53530 • 608/776-3379 • lafayettecountybluebirdsociety@yahoo.com

● **Funding: Mike Helgren** (see above)

● **WI Bluebird Editor: Patrick Ready**, (see above)

● **Membership: Sue Schultz**, 5221 Cheryl's Dr., Plover, WI 54467 • 715/341-5521 • sueschultz59@charter.net

● **Nest Box Designs: Fred Craig**, (see above)

● **Student and Youth Outreach Committee:**

● **Co-Chairpersons: Lowell Peterson**, 1860 45th St., Somerset, WI 54025 • 715/247-3243; and, **Mary Holleback**, 720 Madison St., West Bend, WI 53095 • 262/335-9843

● **Website: Ellen Lafouge**, 9154 N. Fielding Rd., Bayside, WI 53127 • 414/352-6697; wibluebird@gmail.com

● **BRAW LIAISONS:**

● **Bureau Of Endangered Res. Liaison: Sumner Matteson**, DNR, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53701 • 608/266-1571

● **WSO Liaison: Jennifer Wenzel**, miloloki@wi.rr.com, 262-488-8077

## Frank Zuern receives Katherine D. Rill Environmental Award

Winnebago Audubon Society recently presented the Katherine D. Rill Environmental Award to Frank Zuern. Society members, friends and family honored Frank for his lifetime achievements in the area of environmental stewardship and commitment to instilling his love for the natural world in his family and anyone with whom he comes in contact. For Frank, like Katherine Rill, being an environmentalist is a lifetime endeavor. Frank exemplifies excellence as a private citizen in all four of the areas used as criteria for the award.

An educator by profession, Frank was instrumental in locating Sullivan's Woods and convincing the Oshkosh Area School District in 1977 to purchase the 40 acres from Beatrice and Humphrey Sullivan. This outdoor classroom plays an integral part in the school district's outdoor education program and has been visited by over 40,000 students. After retirement Frank continued his involvement by serving as a classroom guide and helping maintain the property.

Frank's interest in conservation of birds, especially bluebirds, began in the 60's when the bluebird population had reached its lowest point. He started building birdhouses and established several bluebird trails, which he diligently monitored. While traveling in Georgia he observed a bluebird nesting in a cannon and consequently designed a new bluebird house and named it the "Tree Branch" house. Frank based the design on the theory that the bluebirds would nest in the back of the box and the long distance from the entrance would prevent raccoon's from destroying the nest. This design was published in the Wisconsin Bluebird, the newsletter for Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW). He is a long time member of BRAW and has served on its board.

Over the years Frank has engaged in citizen science by writing many letters to local and statewide newspapers regarding environmental issues. In 2012 he was interviewed by attorney George Curtis regarding the Governor's controversial wetland reform bill. This was posted on youtube.com and demonstrates Frank's passions for protecting



*Frank Zuern (center) receives the Katherine D. Rill Environmental Award from Winnebago Audubon Society with Society President Janet Wissink (left) and his grandson Benjamin Seidl (right).*

our wetlands.

Frank showed his dedication to preserving and restoring habitat by persuading the Winnebago County Conservation Club to create the old Glatz brewery grounds into a nature preserve/park. In Arkansas he participated with groups that prevented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from dredging and straightening the Cache River. This motivated him to write and publish "Cache River Eulogy" in 1973.

The Environmental Award is named in memory of Winnebago Audubon Society founding chapter member Katherine D. Rill, who dedicated her time, skills and efforts to preserve and restore wildlife habitat, conserve birds, engage in citizen science, and educate others about natural systems.

*(Written by Zaiga Freivalds, Winnebago Audubon Society)  
Photo by Len Place*

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Editor, Designer, Photographer  
Patrick Ready, 3117 Stratton Way, #112, Madison, WI 53719  
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**The mission and purpose of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc. is to monitor and increase the production of Eastern Bluebirds and other native cavity nesters through a coordinated statewide nest box construction and monitoring program.**

## Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

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2016 BRAW  
Annual Meeting  
See page 3

## BRAW Returns to Garden Expo in Madison

By Patrick Ready, BRAW President

It has been a couple years since BRAW has had a booth at the WI Public TV Garden Expo. I have been there to do my Attracting Bluebirds presentation the past 2 years and have had good attendance for those. This year treasurer Mike Helgren spearheaded the effort to return to this event and the BRAW board supported this wholeheartedly. Turned out to be very successful once again. We sold out of the 50 NABS Style nest boxes, all the Info Packs we had available and all the oval hole guards we had. Fred Craig made 25 of the nest boxes and Mike also made 25. My talk on Saturday was packed with standing room only by time the program began. This is one of the best ways we can get the proper information out there to the public and hopefullt increase membership as well.



The Spring Meeting of the Lafayette County Bluebird Society will be held on April 2 from 2:00-5:00 pm in the Community Room at the Town Bank in Darlington. The featured speaker will be UW-Platteville lecturer, Ryan Schmitz, who will be speaking on Getting to Know Our National Bird, the Bald Eagle. Ryan earned his Master's of Science in Biology from Fort Hays State University with his thesis "Spatial and temporal patterns of Bald Eagle winter habitat use along the Upper Mississippi River corridor". He has studied other birds including the Prothonotary Warbler. There will be a blind auction and refreshments will be served. For more information visit the web site: <https://lafayettecountybluebirdsociety.wordpress.com>