

Spring 2019
Vol. 34, 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.

2018 Not Good for Bluebirds

see page 3



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IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE? MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS MAY BE DUE!

A Word from the Prez



It's time to start getting ready for the nesting season! Soon our Bluebirds will be returning to our boxes. Make sure to have them cleaned out and ready. We never know when the start will be. I have had hens on eggs in late March (2012) and have waited almost all the way through April (2018) before finding nests started and eggs laid. It doesn't matter because our beloved Bluebirds know what they are doing!

Some of you may be wondering when the Annual Convention will be. I'm starting to work on it and so far I can say it will be at the Kickapoo Valley Nature Reserve near LaFarge. The date will be September 14, 2019. It will be in the Fall for those like having it to wrap up the season. Program speakers are yet to be decided but I plan to have three on topics of interest for all of us. New this time will be the ability to sign up, register & pay through GroupWorks online using our BRAW account. You can also mail it in as before.

Speaking of GroupWorks all members who have email addresses with BRAW can sign up in GroupWorks and receive notices, reminders, general information, events and even get answers to questions ASAP!

Sometimes finding this info on our website can be a bit troublesome. GroupWorks is very easy to navigate and doesn't have too many layers that make things confusing. It is not a social networking site like FaceBook! It is restricted to BRAW members only. Once you are registered on GroupWorks you can choose other areas of interest if you so desire. Say your other interest is Fishing or Quilting. You can

click those and then go check out info to learn more. No need to worry about your information being shared or sold or having SPAM emailed to you because you venture to any interest group. SO get signed up if you already haven't done so. You can always unregister if you so desire.

This issue is usually the one that I include the BRAW Form 22, single box data sheet for anyone to use for the monitoring season. Lack of room plus I wanted to include the color Cavity Nesters Guide as this is a useful tool for monitors. The form can be downloaded from www.braw.org.

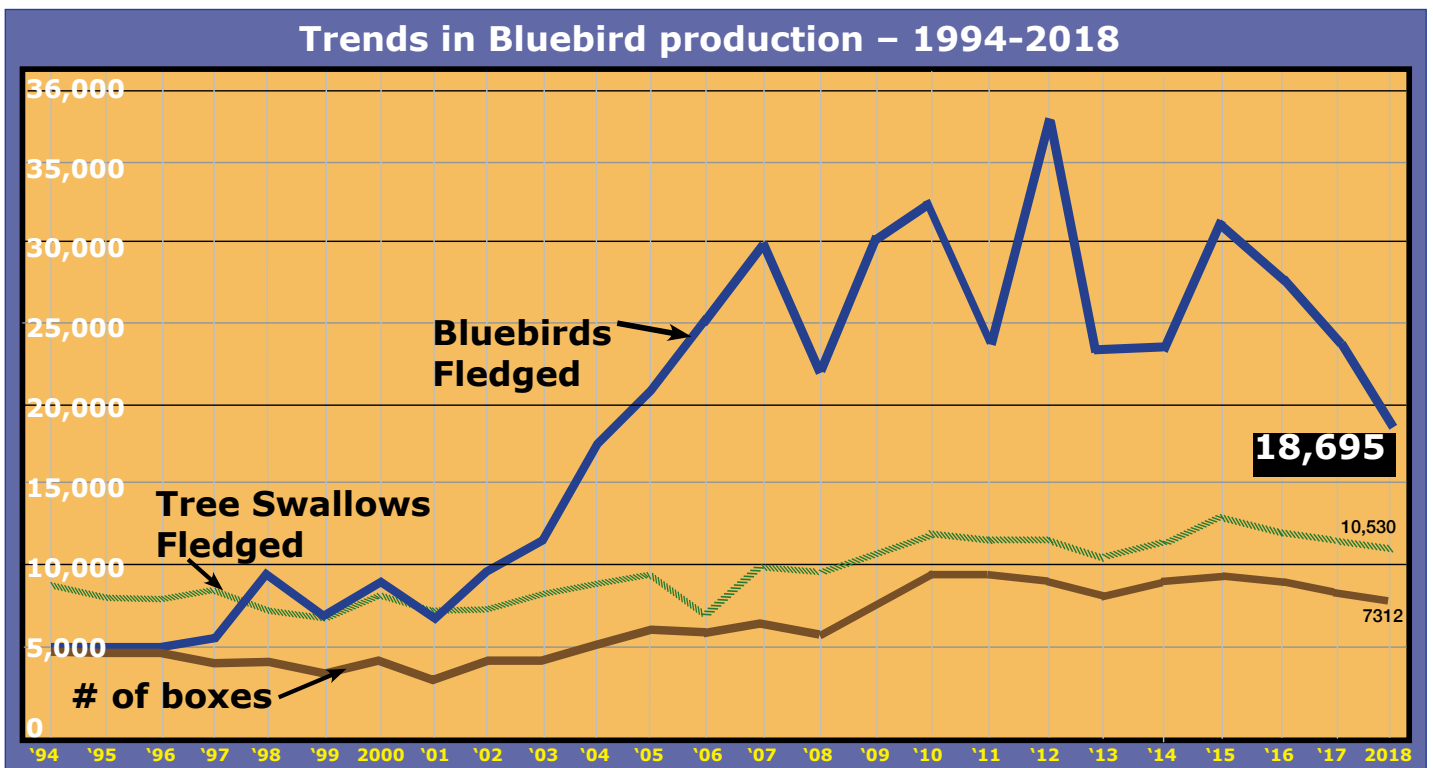
Below is the Bluebird Production Chart started by Joe O'Halloran showing how we are doing year to year since 1994. I'm not too surprised by the 20% drop last year after the losses from April snowstorms late in the month. Let's keep our fingers crossed for a good season this year.

One last thing. BRAW once again participated in the WPT Garden Expo in Madison. I gave two presentations and we handed out lots of information at our booth on the main floor. We sold nest boxes made by Fred Craig and Noel Coon Guards made by Mike Helgren. Another popular item was the Van Ert Sparrow Trap. A big thanks to Mike Helgren for organizing this and helping BRAW get the word out to the public on good nest box managing practices. I learned from a couple that volunteer at Wildcat Mt. State Park the the Friends Group there is taking over the late Art Brieske's trail and will send in their data as Art always did. Great news!

(See page 9 for more on the Garden Expo)

Have a good Bluebird season.

Patrick Ready
BRAW President



*Number of fledgling Eastern Bluebirds & Tree Swallows, and number of active nest-boxes, in the 1994 to 2018 time period.

**Most BRAW monitors dropped paired boxes by 1997 and most dropped crowded single boxes by 2002.

Wisconsin Monitors Report Lower Bluebird Numbers for 2018

Steve Fallon, BRAW Data Director

The statewide reported total for bluebirds fledged in 2018 was 18,695. The total cavity nester fledge count was 34,700. The final values for the previous year, 2017, were 23,266 bluebirds fledged and 38,963 for all cavity nesters fledged.

The 2018 values are once again lower than the previous year, this time, showing a drop of around 20% of fledged bluebirds compared to 2017. This is due to a number of factors. First of all, once again the weather took a toll. A cold spring was reported by monitors to have delayed nesting, destroyed many eggs that were laid, and actually starved adult bluebirds and tree swallows. On my own trails, I found several houses with numerous dead bluebirds or tree swallows inside, presumably huddled for warmth. The snow cover at this time made finding food difficult as well. Many monitors mentioned these same problems. Later in the year, blackfly issues were reported by some monitors.

As one can see by comparing the counts above, the lower bluebird numbers made up the majority of the cavity nester loss reported for 2018. The number of tree swallows ultimately reported was only slightly lower than the previous year, and the numbers of chickadees and wrens were HIGHER than reported the previous year, by 20% and 11% respectively. The bump in wren and chickadee numbers may indicate lower competition from bluebirds or it may indicate that potential nest box placement or brush growth issues.

Additionally, there has been a 13% decrease in the number of boxes maintained and monitored in 2018 compared to 2017. As the population of our monitors ages, the job of nest monitoring can become more difficult. We need to recruit and develop additional people as nest box monitors, if maintaining larger populations of bluebirds is going to have a future in Wisconsin.

I've plotted some of the 2018 data on maps, by county, again this year, to indicate how we're doing across the state. Hopefully, it will be educational. Once again, as you view it, please make sure that you consider the many factors that influence bluebird production across the state. These include, the number of monitors, the number of boxes, localized weather conditions, predator and competitive pressures and suitable bluebird habitat.

2018 was another tough year for our blue feathered friends. In fact, a couple of other studies have shown similar lower bluebird numbers for our region (e.g., see ebird.org, by Cornell Ornithology Laboratory). The challenges can be difficult to combat and may continue. I very much appreciate the hours of work and hundreds of miles our monitors put in every year to help our feathered friends. On behalf of them, I thank you! Please keep up the good work!

If you have any questions or input on the data or how it's presented, please feel free to contact me.



Figure 1 shows the number of bluebirds fledged in comparison to the total number of cavity nesters fledged per county for 2018. The height of the bars gives a relative number of birds- with higher bars indicating higher numbers. In the comparison,

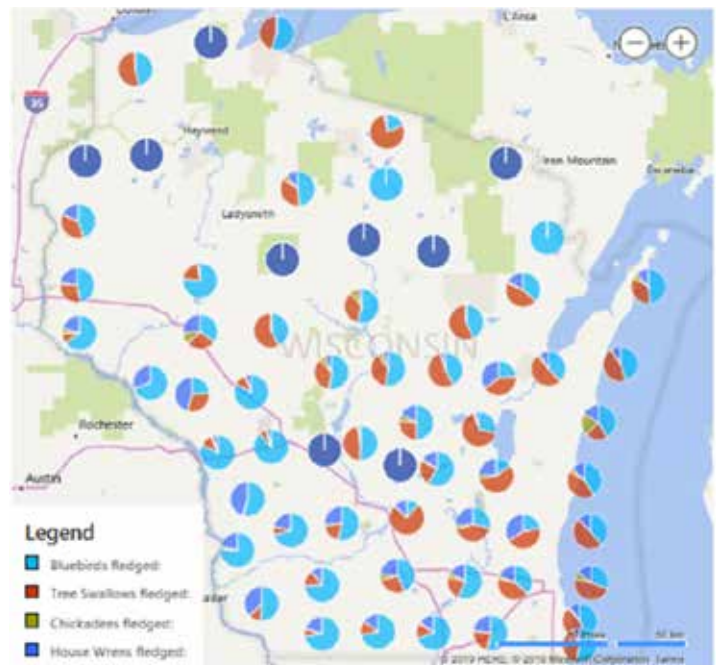


Figure 2, shows the proportion of bluebirds fledged of per box in 2018 to other cavity nesters by county. The largest section of the "pie" indicates the greatest value.

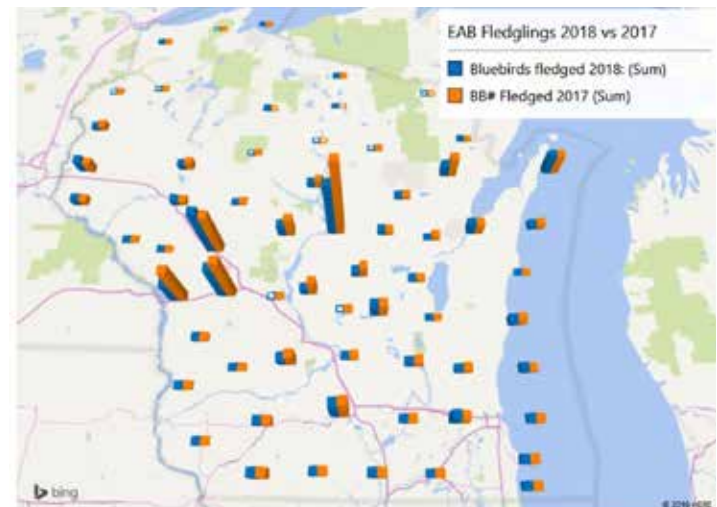


Figure 3 shows a comparison of fledglings per county reported this year 2018 compared to 2017. The bar height indicates the values. Most of the numbers from 2017 are higher than 2018 with a few exceptions.

County Coordinator Column

By Carol McDaniel, CC Chair

Where do bluebirds go when the weather gets really cold? I understood that they went to warmer climates down south, but that isn't always the case. One of my Lafayette County monitors, Jim Hess from Blanchardville, sent this email on January 30 in the dead of winter. The temperature that day was 20 below zero and wind chills hit 40 below zero. It was so cold that warm water tossed into the air froze before it reached the ground. This is what Jim had to say: *I was just out to fill some bird feeders during this Arctic Blast and saw three bluebirds fly out of one of my bluebird boxes. This is not the first time I have noticed this. I believe they are using the boxes to stay warm. I would encourage everyone to leave your boxes closed, rather than leaving them open to discourage mice. It's not fun to clean out a mice nest, but if it means saving a bluebird, it is worth it.*

I want to welcome **Craig and Sheila Beyer** to our list of County Coordinators. They will be serving **Waupaca County**. Craig and Sheila have been Life Members of BRAW for the past 20 years. They have a nice bluebird trail and help monitor many, many more boxes in their county. They can be reached at huntsend@wolf.net or 920-244-7888. Their address is 290 Water Street, Ogdensburg 54962. If you are from Waupaca County and are looking for bluebird advice or just a good bluebird talk, give them a call.

There are a few very good bluebird programs coming up this spring thanks to our County Coordinators. Mark your calendar today so you don't miss out on them.

Charlotte Lukes, Door County: I will be presenting my power point program about bluebirds and other cavity nesters for the annual Ridges Sanctuary nest box building workshop at the Cook-Fuller Center in Baileys Harbor, WI on Saturday, March 16th at 10 AM. Contact The Ridges Sanctuary to register. www.ridgessanctuary.org. Phone 920-839-2802. (Editor: Way to go Charlotte!)

Mary Holleback, Washington and Ozaukee Counties: *Building for Birds Program* at the Riveredge Nature Center, Saturday, March 16, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Bird migration is considered by many to be one of nature's most awe-inspiring mysteries. Many spring migrants will soon be returning to our area looking for housing. Join us to learn how to attract a wide variety of cavity-nesting birds to your yard. We will discuss the pros and cons of different nest box styles and cover the basics of where to place them and how to maintain them. This workshop is meant for amateur and experienced bird lovers. We'll build a box for you to take home at the end. Fee: \$5.00 for non-members & Trail Pass members. Riveredge is located at 4458 County Hwy Y, Saukville, WI. T: 262-416-1224, 262-675-6888

Leif Marking, LaCrosse County: I am living at Eagle Crest North, Onalaska WI and my wife Carol lives at Brookdale Senior Living also in Onalaska where she is in recovery from a stroke last November that paralyzed her left side. I have Parkinson's Disease that threatens physical and mental activities so I'm downsizing my activities.

I continue efforts to promote bluebird conservation. I monitor four bluebird boxes in view of residents that have produced bluebird fledges each year. I also show my video "Discovering Bluebirds" to residents and visitors. Residents here admire my bluebird photos and call me the Bluebird Man» or simply the "Bird Man". Other trail boxes have been transferred to folks that were interested in checking more boxes.

Carol McDaniel, Lafayette and Grant: I will be at the Vesperman Farms in Lancaster on March 23 speaking to the Grant County Master Gardeners Association 4th Annual Spring Conference. The title of my talk is: The Passion of Bluebirding-How to Attract and Fledge Bluebirds in Your Backyard. The Eastern Bluebird is beneficial near a garden by eating harmful insects that damage flowers and vegetables. Also presenting that day are Inga Witscher from PBS series *Around the Farm Table* and UW Madison Entomologist, Phillip Pellitteri. Registration is \$20. For more

info visit the web site: <http://grant-countymastergardeners.weebly.com> On March 20, from 2:00-3:00 I will be on hand at the Bluebird Nest Nature Center at 308 Main St. in Darlington answering bluebird questions. On April, 13, from 1:00-4:00 the Lafayette County Bluebird Society will hold its Annual Spring Meeting at the Town Bank at 15815 Hwy 81 in Darlington. A representative from the International Crane Foundation will present a talk titled: *Visionary Conservation – a look at cranes and the work of the International Crane Foundation*. Additionally there will be discussion on bluebirds, cavity nesters and migration.

Jim Beix, Pierce County: Jim Higgins and I are joining Lowell Peterson, St. Croix County Coordinator for a Bluebird Presentation at Interstate Park, St. Croix Falls, WI on Feb. 24th at 1:30 PM. After the presentation we help youth and their parents with nest box assembly. An elderly gentleman pre-cuts the nest boxes out of cedar so there is a charge for the boxes. Lowell says he has presentations that he will give in Hudson and New Richmond for garden clubs.

Dale Moody, Iowa County: On January 22 the bluebirds were starting to build nests in our backyard in Florida!

Patrick Ready, Dane County: Spring is a busy time for promoting Bluebirds! I have several dates and locations where I will present my program *Attracting Eastern Bluebirds & Other Cavity Nesters*. Two at the Garden Expo in Madison Feb. 9 & 10. Then I will be at two Wild Birds Unlimited stores in March. Janesville store on the 16th at 10 AM and then March 23 at the Madison store at 10 & 11:30. At Olbrich Gardens in Madison, Class: *Attract Cavity Nesters with a Bird Box*- April 23 and May 8, both in the evening. Participants will assemble a NABS-style box to take home. Kits were made by BRAW Board member Fred Craig. Thanks Fred!!

In May I have two Walk & Talk field trips scheduled, one at Pope Farm Conservancy & one with the Natural Heritage Foundation at the UW Arboretum in Madison. More Blues to all of you in 2019.

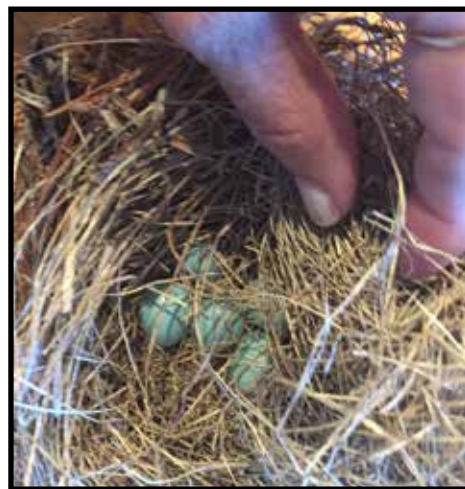
Bluebirds with Fertility Issues

By Barb Allen

It seems like so many young couples today are experiencing fertility issues but I never expected what I found in a pair of bluebirds. I monitored a nest that had one egg at the Woods Golf Course in Green Bay, Wisconsin on May 7th. On May 14th when I returned, there were five eggs. I calculated the hatch date to be May 24th. I returned on May 21st and again on May 26th and the eggs were warm so the hen was incubating them. When I returned on June 1st, I thought either a sparrow or raccoon had invaded the nest as the nest was intact but the eggs were gone. (Photo 1). I decided to remove the nest to possibly activate the bluebird pair to start a new nest and lay eggs. In looking at the nest better when I got home, I found the five eggs under a new section of the nest that the bluebird had added on top of the existing nest. (Photo 2 and 3). The bluebirds apparently knew the eggs should have hatched and gave up on them. Because there were no other available nests at the golf course, they just built over the old eggs. I have never seen this odd occurrence before and have had a bluebird incubate until I knew they were non-viable and removed them.

The next week, when I returned there was a new nest, and five eggs on June 14th. I estimated the hatch date as June 26th. The eggs were warm on June 27th. When I returned on July 2nd, the eggs were still not hatched. The hen was still definitely incubating, so I decided to check one of the eggs to see if it was again infertile as they were with the first clutch.

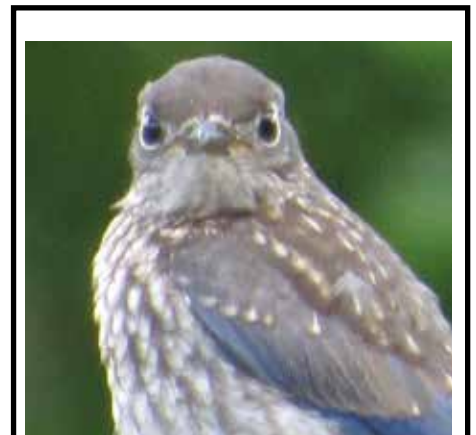
Important Note: I have been monitoring bluebirds for quite some time and keep very detailed records where I know expected hatch dates and fledge dates. I would never recommend checking any eggs unless you are very sure that you have calculated the hatch date correctly and have waited at least a week past the anticipated hatch date. I also only check one egg and if there is any embryo development, I would not proceed checking any other eggs.



Sure enough there was no developed embryo formation just a non-viable egg, so I continued checking all the eggs. This poor pair of bluebirds had 10 eggs all infertile. I again removed the nest hoping that they might again try to successfully have chicks. Unfor-

tunately they gave up trying.

I also had a nest box that I began monitoring several years ago on the other side of a lake where we have a summer cottage. I saw the nest box close to the road and stopped to talk with the owner and inquired if it was okay for me to include his box in my monitored trail totals. He had bluebirds when he first installed the house years before but had not seen them return. This year he was fortunate and a pair laid five eggs. When I stopped to check his box, he informed me that he had installed a second box in his garden which was fairly close to the first box and the lake. He said he had bluebirds in that box too. I checked the box and sure enough he also had five eggs in that box. All the eggs were warm and they appeared to be incubating in both boxes but we were having an unusually warm summer. I was surprised that two bluebird pairs would nest so close to each other. When I returned the following week, I hoped to find chicks in the first nest box but they were still not hatched. I knew that they were now well overdue and anticipated that they were non-viable eggs and that the bluebird pair had given up on them and found the second nest box where they laid their second batch of eggs. Again I checked the first egg and continued on checking all the eggs and yes they also had a fertility issue. Happily the second batch of five fledged!



**Got questions about
Bluebirds?
Check out
www.braw.org**

Nest Guide to Cavity Nesters

by Patrick Ready/BRAW

Eastern Bluebird

Fine or coarse grasses, pine needles, lined with fine grasses.



Tree Swallow

Similar to bluebirds, coarser grasses & straw, lined with feathers when eggs are laid.



Black-capped Chickadee

Moss, fine grass, lined with animal hair.



House Wren

Sticks and twigs jammed in tight. Lined with a small amount of fine grass and hair. Often builds dummy nest with a few sticks but without lined cup.



House Sparrow

grass, straw, feathers, paper, plastic, etc. and they usually swirl the grass upward to fill the box, then tunnel down in. Sometimes when a nest is first started it may be hard to tell what species is nesting. Wait a day or two to see how the nest develops. Feathers and wrappers early on with some grass pieces are definite signs of House Sparrows.



Above: Peterson box filled with straw, grass, and garbage indicates a House Sparrow nest.

Middle: Eggs-white or grey with brown specs

Left: Beginning nest. Similar to bluebird and tree swallow but note chicken feathers and debris = signs of a House Sparrow nest.

Species Identification of cavity nesters

Male & female Eastern Bluebird.



Female & male Tree Swallow.



Fledgling Eastern Bluebird



Black-capped Chickadee, sexes similar.



House Wren, sexes similar.

Ticks! Let's Be Careful Out There

By Patrick Ready, Editor

Sometime over winter I was talking to Lowell Peterson up in NW Wisconsin and he mention he & his wife were both recovering from tick diseases. So I thought it might make sense to remind monitors to use precaution when checking those nest boxes. I poached some information from the DNR website intended for hunters but definitely useful for our members as well.

There is an increasing awareness among nest box monitors that there are medical risks associated with checking boxes, and certain safety precautions should be taken. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has the following advice on certain health concerns linked to Tick-borne diseases. This document is by no means intended to discourage people from monitoring boxes; instead, it is intended to inform you of the risks they face and steps you can take to reduce those risks.

Tick-borne diseases pose a hazard to nest box monitors. They are usually transmitted to people through tick bites, but skin contact with the internal fluids of infected ticks also poses a risk of infection. Cases of tick-borne diseases, such as anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) and others, have increased in the last decade. These diseases can be fatal. The symptoms of these diseases can be somewhat vague, making it difficult for physicians to diagnose the disease until it has become more severe. Preventing tick bites is the single most important step in preventing tick-borne diseases.

The following guidelines are recommended for anyone walking in tick areas:

- DEET and picaridin are commonly used insect repellents. If skin becomes wet from perspiration or water, towel off and reapply to dry skin.
- Spray permethrin-containing products on outer clothing, including shoes. Permethrin is not an effective repellent for use on skin. If chemical odors are a concern, there are unscented and neutral odor products

available, such as DeepWoods Off! Sportsmen.

- Avoid wearing the same clothes on consecutive days without washing them first to remove ticks. Wash clothes immediately after returning home.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Tuck pant legs into socks.
- Conduct body checks immediately after returning from outdoor activities in tick-infested areas. Use mirrors if necessary, but check all body areas and remove all ticks found.
- Check children, especially behind the ears, back of the neck, around the waist, and in and along the hairline. Remove attached ticks by using fine-tipped tweezers.
- Do not twist the tick as you remove it – this may cause the tick's mouthparts to remain in the skin, increasing the risk of infection.
- Do not attempt to suffocate the tick with alcohol-soaked cotton – this will cause the tick to regurgitate while its mouthparts are still in the skin, and can increase the risk of infection.
- Avoid direct contact with the tick's body because its fluids may be infectious.
- Wash the affected area with soap and water, and disinfect the bite site and your hands.

Diseases

Anaplasmosis

Anaplasmosis is a tick-borne disease caused by the *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* bacteria (and less commonly by *Anaplasma platys*). It is spread by tick bites, primarily by the black legged and western black legged ticks. It can be difficult to distinguish anaplasmosis from Lyme disease because the signs of disease are very similar and they occur in essentially the same areas of the country.

Lyme Disease (Lyme borreliosis)

Lyme disease is an illness caused by a bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is a "spirochete" (a bacterium that has a worm-like, spiral-shaped form). Deer ticks are the primary carriers of the bacteria.

In humans, often the earliest indication of infection is a "bull's eye" rash at the site of the tick bite – so named

because it resembles a target. As the infection develops, symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and muscle and joint pain. The disease can progress to cause chronic joint problems as well as heart and neurological problems. Lyme disease is not contagious from one person to another.

Because it can be a difficult disease to diagnose, it is best to prevent infection by taking appropriate measures to prevent tick bites.

As with all tick-borne diseases, preventing tick bites is essential to preventing the disease.

BRAW welcomes these new members

Thomas Schwab - Verona
Steve & Patti Heimerman - Oconto
Alicia Ploetz - Hortonville
Barb Kellerman - Milwaukee
Belinda Bowers - La Valle
Betty Humphrey - Oshkosh
Dale Marsden - McFarland
Dick Tuttle - Delaware
Evonne Kraemer - Spring Green
James R LaLuzerne - De Pere
Janice Wittkopp - Plymouth
Jeffrey Rammer - Freye - Kohler
John Loehlein - De Pere
Mary Bratz & Dick Stephens - Almond
Michael Everson - De Soto
Nancy Paul - Green Bay
Steve & Nancy Hoover - Neshkoro
William Ross - Monroe

BRAW Joins Amazon Smiles!

Amazon has developed a way to support non-profit organizations such as **BRAW**. If you use Amazon, log into "<http://smiles.amazon.com>" instead of just "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.

BRAW Treasurer's Report for 2018

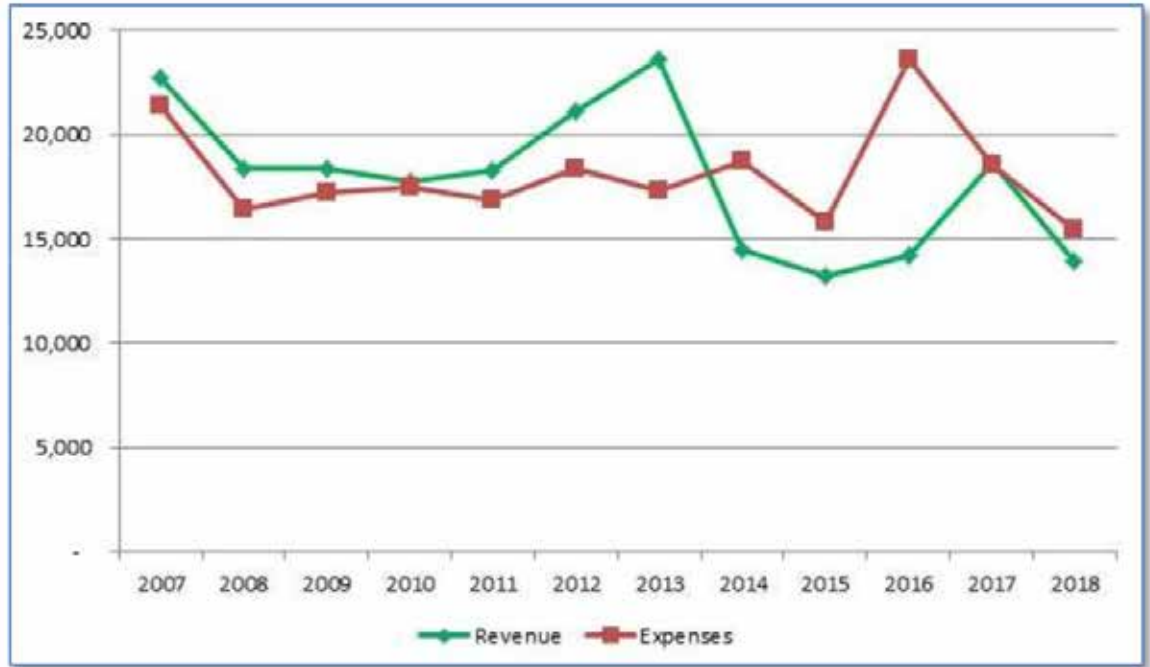
Greetings!

Over the last couple of years, the BRAW Board has been working hard on finding ways to reduce expenses, and spending money where it does the most good. We have been successful at bringing our expenses back in line as depicted by the descending red line in the chart below. While our actual expenses were \$18,671 in 2017, they dropped to \$13,916 in 2018.

The need to reduce expenses, however, is in response to lower revenues over the last several years and not because the money isn't needed. It should be pointed out that if revenues were higher, there are additional effective ways to invest our funds to fulfill the mission of our Association. Our bluebird friends are experiencing some hard times, and there is a growing need in Wisconsin to expand our efforts to help them.

With the exception of 2017, annual revenues for the Association have been under \$15,000 for the past 5 years. The green line in the chart shows a gradually declining revenue stream, and we need to find ways to turn this around. Our primary source of income is from member ships, which have been declining. Our other main sources of income are from donations, material sales, and state convention.

Exploring ways to increase our revenue streams while maintaining careful spending will be the focus of our Board in 2019 and beyond.



Respectfully submitted,
Dan Schroeder
Treasurer

Garden Expo 2019 - BRAW was there!



Thanks to these BRAW volunteers for helping make it a big success.

Steve Sample	Megan Karth
Dave Misterek	Ken Karth
Gene Kroupa	Will Vail
Harv Kucaba	Donna Stehling
Melissa McNeil	Bill Stehling
Dave Lucey	Pat Ready
Steve Fallon	Rod Courtier
Gordon Weber	Susie Sample
Mary Sobol	Ellen Helgren
Marianne Jensen	Mike Helgren
Kristine Vaughn	



Membership Renewal Information

By Mike Ray, 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.

Most BRAW memberships are on a calendar year basis, which means that regular memberships expire on December 31, **except for Life Members.**

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 Spring 19 your membership will expire with this issue.

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

Fill out the membership renewal form below and send it with your check or money order to BRAW Membership, c/o Mike Ray, 1120 N. Pleasant View Rd. Apt 204, Middleton, WI 53562.

If we did not receive your renewal by February 1, 2019, your membership will begin with the Summer issue of the *Wisconsin Bluebird*. **We will 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 May and is mailed to arrive to you the first week in June. I need time to process membership renewals and prepare the mailing list so the sooner I receive your renewal the better. Please renew because we want you!!

Consider a onetime \$300 Life Membership in BRAW. **Life members do not have to renew.**

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.**

All renewals received now will begin with the Summer issue.

New members use the form below to join BRAW.

**A BRAW
subscription makes
a great Anytime gift!**

Give the gift of Bluebirds!

.....

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:

- \$15 Student (email link - online)
- \$20 Online paperless issue via email link -NEW!**
- \$25 Individual or Family Annual (hard copy mailed)
- \$100 Corporate Annual
- \$300 Life Membership Perpetual Fund

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/membership
 - This is a GIFT subscription.
- Enclosed please find my check \$ _____

Mail this membership/subscription request to:
BRAW, Inc.
Mike Ray
1120 N. Pleasant View Rd. Apt 204
Middleton, WI 53562

Please note: This form appears in this newsletter as a convenience for all who wish to obtain membership. Most membership renewals (Life members excluded) are due as of January 1 each year. If you renew or join during the year you will be on a quarterly membership and will not receive back issues.

BRAW ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS

President Patrick Ready, 815 Sky Ridge DR., Madison, WI 53719 • 608/239-0791 • birdsready@gmail.com (term to 12/19)

Vice President Steve Sample, 422 Shepard Ter. Madison, WI 53705 • 708/606-8070 (term to 12/19)

Secretary Claire Romanak, 7175 Nehrbass Rd.; Athens, WI 54411 • 715/257-1905 • ribriver2@wildblue.net (Term to 12/19)

Treasurer Dan Schroeder, N4028 Morgan Drive, Waupaca, WI 54981 • 920-475-8525 • brdanjoe@gmail.com (term to 12/19)

Director Fred Craig, 3308 Nathan Lane, Holmen WI 54636 • 608/783-2225 marycraig@gmail.com (term to 12/21)

Director, Steve Fallon, Oregon, WI • 974 Halcyon Days Ct., Oregon, WI 53575 • stevefall50@gmail.com (term to 12/21)

Director, Dave Lucey, Cross Plains, WI • 53528 • dklucey@chorus.net(term to 12/19)

Director Gene Kroupa, 1010 Tumalo Trail, Madison, WI 53711 • 608/238-3571 • gkroupa@tds.net (term to 12/19)

APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Data Collection Officer: Steve Fallon (see above)

County Coordinator Chair: Carol McDaniel, 9320 Wicks Rd., Gratiot, WI 53541 • cjmcd_98@yahoo.com • 608-922-2473

Funding: Dan Schroeder (see above)

WI Bluebird Editor: Patrick Ready, (see above)

Membership: Mike Ray, 1120 N. Pleasant View Rd. Apt. 4 Middleton, WI 53562 Email: mike.joseph.ray@gmail.com

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 53095-4136 • 262/335-9843

Website: Mike Ray, 1120 N. Pleasant View Rd. Apt. 4 Middleton, WI 53562 Email: mike.joseph.ray@gmail.com

BRAW LIAISONS:

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Five Things You Can Do for BRAW

By Gene Kroupa

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in enjoying bluebirds that we forget about helping BRAW. Here are five things to consider:

1) **Tell friends and family about BRAW.** Let them know that the 8,000 houses we maintain produce over 20,000 fledglings. Recovery of the bluebird rivals that of the timber wolf and wild turkey.

2) **Spread the word by teaching.** Coordinate or teach a session about bluebirds at your local school, county extension office, bird seed outlet or conservation club.

3) **Share information with the press.**

Provide BRAW fact sheets, brochures, photos, story leads and articles to your local newspaper, TV or radio station.

4) **Take photos of bluebirds.** Post shots on your Facebook or Instagram page and email them to Patrick Ready for use in the *Wisconsin Bluebird* magazine and on the www.braw.org website.

5) **Recruit new members.** We need fresh faces to join you in volunteering their time for tending trails, erecting

new bluebird houses, educating the public and donating funds.

BRAW brochures, copies of the magazine and other free resource materials are available on the website. Think of the impact if all members of BRAW pitched in. Every little bit counts.



Pat Ready photos

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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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**Is this your last issue?
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!
See p. 10**

Life cycle of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) by Patrick Ready.



Pair select box and female builds the nest.



Within a week or two 3-5 eggs are usually laid in the nest.



The male stands guard.



After 13-14 days of incubation the chicks hatch.



After 16-22 days old the chicks are ready to fledge.



The chicks grow quickly being fed by both parents.