

Fall 2016
Vol. 31, No. 3



Wisconsin Bluebird

Newsletter of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

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

Send in Your 2016 Data

see page 2



David Bloch photos

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A Word from the Prez

Another season has come to an end. I have heard from a few of you this summer...mostly folks wondering where were their bluebirds.



They just didn't get them back like they have in years past. Some said they had pairs in early April and some nest building occurred but then the blues left unexpectedly. This happened to my brother Mike near Watertown. For several years he has had at least 1 pair of bluebirds and usually 2 broods.

Mike and his wife Dawn have a 6 acre farmette along the Rock River. They have lots of mowed lawn and scattered trees in their yard. The borders tend to have a habitat that is more wren-like, but his nest boxes are placed out in the open. He only saw bluebirds in early April. Why they left and why they never came back is a mystery to me.

Having done this for almost 20 years now I have learned these are the things we trail monitors learn to cope with. I seldom find one season is anything like the previous one. There are so many factors to consider. A bad winter down south may mean large losses to our blues that migrate down there. Ice storms and late snow storms can take their toll. When migrant bluebirds return in spring they look for suitable habitat with nesting possibilities. All too often they have to compete with European House Sparrows. The weather here in spring can definitely be a challenge for them as well. Finding adequate food is their priority before nesting can begin.

This past spring the state had some cold snaps, dropping night temps well below freezing. Here

in the south central part of the state we had a low in the mid-20s on May 13. I'm not sure how cold it got up north. These weather events cause loss of eggs and chicks. I always tell people Bluebirds are resilient! Most of the time they bounce back and build another nest or lay more eggs and keep on going. On my trails the blues nested so late I didn't have any losses due to cold.

Since the last issue of the Wisconsin Bluebird our board of directors has shrunk again. Our long-time secretary Patricia Heiden has decided to retire after 16 years as a BRAW director. She has done a fantastic job as secretary and as a trail monitor near Dousman. She will definitely be hard to replace. Once again I make an appeal to the membership for volunteers to join our board. If you feel you have leadership skills and are up to the task I invite you to sit in on one of our quarterly meetings. See how things work and what issues we deal with and make decisions about. It really isn't that time consuming. We meet in June, September and November for our regular meetings on a Saturday morning near Arkdale, WI. In April the BRAW Annual Convention is considered a board meeting. Let me know if you want more details.

One last thing. I'm working on getting the 2017 BRAW Convention set up at Lafollette High School in Madison. Most likely a Saturday in April but they don't book events for next year yet so I have to wait before I can make a definite date etc. A few members have mentioned they prefer a fall convention after the nesting season. Let me know what you prefer, Spring or Fall.

Happy Trails!
Patrick Ready
BRAW President

Please Send in Your 2016 Nest Box Data!

By Steve Sample, Data Collecting

The BRAW EZ Summary Form is what you use to fill out so we can include your results for this nesting season in our data report. If you keep good records of your monitoring results throughout the season it should only take 10 minutes to fill out the form. Then you decide how you want to submit it. You can mail it, or send the information to the email address at the bottom of the form. **If you choose to email it you will have to type the information into your message.** Make sure you include the required information from the card.

We need your data by September 30.

The next page has copies of the EZ Form. It's also available as a download on the website - www.braw.org. Look for the link on the homepage with the PDF or a Word form you can copy and fill in and send.

For a paper version, fill it out (one per county) and mail it to:

**Data Summary Director
C/O Wild Birds Unl.
8402 Old Sauk Rd.
Madison, WI 53562**



Steve Sample is looking for your data for the 2016 season. Send it in by September 30 so he can compile the statewide results.

BRAW EZ Summary Form

Use this card to report your nest box results for the season.
DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30

_____ No. of boxes* _____ Boxes used by Blue-
birds*
_____ Bluebird eggs laid _____ Bluebird eggs hatched
_____ Bluebirds fledged * _____ Tree Swallows
fledged
_____ Chickadees fledged _____ House Wrens fledged

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

*County _____
Year: _____
*Name _____

Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*Phone (_____) - _____
email: _____

*= Required data. Please provide any other data or informa-
tion.

Comments: _____

EZ Summary data can be emailed to wisconsinbluebirds@gmail.com

Thank You!

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Address _____
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*Phone (_____) - _____
email: _____

*= Required data. Please provide any other data or informa-
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Comments: _____

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Thank You!



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Annual Report deadline: September 30

If you want to send by mail your Annual Report use the following forms:

- Easy Form 21 (PDF)
- Easy Form 21 (Word)

or even better, go to this page to send your data electronically online:

<http://www.braw.org/wpbraw/index.php/annual-report-form/>



Important changes coming soon

There will be important changes concerning 1) the BRAW website, 2) the way the Annual Report and 3) the membership renewal will be handled, 4) the way to interact between BRAW members.

a) A new interface of BRAW.org has been created with the possibility of sending your Annual Report directly from the web which then is automatically computed electronically: this will reduce the time spent by the Data Collector, the cost of stamps/envelops/paper as well as mistakes. A test has been recently conducted and so far it was successful. We just need to have more people doing it next year.

b) The new BRAW site will soon have another form that you can fill directly on the web when you need to renew your membership using PayPal or your credit card.

c) A third form, the Contact form should be used if you want to update your Contact Information including email addresses, address, etc. or if you want to start receiving emails from BRAW.

d) The new website will include a blog and links to Facebook, Twitter and Google+ accounts where members will be able to exchange ideas, photos, etc. The blog will allow BRAW members to comment or/and send photos to everyone.

So far, at least half of the BRAW community have an email and accept to receive emails from BRAW. Our goal is to have most of us taking advantage of this new way of interacting with BRAW.

Since these new forms involve dealing with data base programs, the BRAW webmaster will be in charge of the web and the membership collection. To know when the new website will be up and running, and to inform us of your interest in posting content on the website blog, please fill the Contact form at the following link: <http://www.braw.org/wpbraw/index.php/contact-form/>

Contact:

BRAW Webmaster, 9154 North Fielding Road, Bayside, WI 53217-1834

Tel: 414-352-6697

brawwebmaster@gmail.com

County Coordinator News

By Carol McDaniel

In late June, I emailed the CCs and said there wouldn't be a report this issue, but I heard from a few folks and want to pass their news on to everyone.

There will be a fall report, so I will be watching for news from CCs throughout the state. For those who send mail rather than email, notice my new mailing address is: 9302 Wicks Rd., Gratiot, WI 53541-9785 Phone: 608-922-2473 or 608-922- BIRD. In the meantime, happy bluebirding.

Kewaunee County CC, Don Pritzl

Greeting from Kewaunee County! It's been a "normal" spring on my bluebird trails so far. To date (06-06), I have 28 boxes with BBs and 25 with Tree Swallows. There seems to be more TS each year. They seem to arrive earlier each year and take over the boxes. The first fledging of BBs was about one week before Memorial Day. Haven't had too much trouble with predation, but a lot of competition from House Sparrows. I have a total of 65 boxes our, 53 Peterson, 6 Simple, 4 PBC and 2 Slot. My neighbor recently gave me a Bauldry box that he won at some raffle. I raised the floor and put it out in our church cemetery. We'll see what happens. I'm in the process of making 10 NABS boxes for another neighbor. I emphasized the importance of monitoring the boxes after they are put up. They said they will. I wasn't able to attend the annual meeting. Apparently it was very successful, that's great. I hope it will be held in the eastern part of the state next year. I like your report from the coordinators around the state. Keep up the good work!

Sauk County CC, Larry Liegel

(On July 4, Karla and Bernie Hoefgen sent an email to Sauk County Coordinator, Larry Liegel with a report on their bluebird trail. Larry offers some remarks and good advice at the end of the email.)

So far I have visited these houses 8 times. This last review on July 4 was once again full of surprises.

1. Five BB eggs waiting to hatch. Five have already fledged from this house.

2. Four BB eggs ready to hatch. Five also fledged from this house. Two weeks ago this house had three BB eggs

and last week only one, but mother BB was persistent and just laid more eggs.

3. Four wren eggs. 7 tree swallows (TS) fledged from this house and last week I cleaned out the nest so in one week mother wren built a large stick nest and laid four little brown eggs.
4. Empty. Six TSs fledged from this house and no one has taken it over yet. TS's lay only one batch per year so another species may move in.
5. 1 BB egg. 6 TSs fledged from this house and I cleaned it out last week.
6. Four BB eggs. Five BBs fledged from this house and then a TS laid three eggs in it but these disappeared after one week so I cleaned out the house and it sat empty for two weeks.
7. 4 wren eggs. 3 TSs fledged from this house and the wren started building a nest on top of the TS nest so I tossed all that out but the wren persisted.
8. 1 BB egg. There may be more, but I only saw 1 because mother BB refused to leave the house even when I opened up the side. Apparently she is not done laying.
9. 3 BB eggs laid on the bare floor. I had emptied the house last week because 6 TSs had fledged. Apparently mother BB could not wait to build a nest so she laid the eggs right on the wooden floor. I picked some grass, crushed it up and put it under the eggs. I'd never heard of such a thing so I hope this works.
10. 1 white egg but I think the mother bird that refused to leave the house was a BB. Sometimes BB eggs are white and later I will be able to identify them by the shape. 6 TSs had fledged from this house this past week so I didn't have time to clean out the old nest.
11. 2 BB eggs. They were laid right on top of the TS nest from which 6 TSs had fledged this past week.
12. 3 tiny pink BB babies.
13. A large pile of sticks with a tiny pocket for wrens but no eggs yet. I left it undisturbed. 6 TSs had fledged from this house last week.

Summary: 24 BBs fledged from five houses in round one and now there are 21 eggs and 3 babies in round two and I am quite certain there will be more. The BBs used 5 houses in round one but now are using 9. My best estimate is that 48 TSs fledged from 8 houses in round one. Now 8 wren

eggs are in two houses and a third is ready for wren eggs. Thus far these 13 houses either have or are in the process of sheltering 104 songbirds and more are on their way. The persistence and creativity of these birds continues to surprise and amaze me. Here is Larry's reply to Karla and Bernie:

There is one thing about "The Blues"...they are constantly surprising you, I think in this case it is perseverance. What I have found this year is that their second brood cycle has been more productive than the first. Mother Naure's way of making up for lost time from cold spring in May.

Congrats Bernie and Karla for YOUR perseverance too. This is a very nice report. I hope you will turn in your results to BRAW in Sept.

Regarding:
 #8. rarely does she lay only one egg... no doubt more in there and she was incubating them, so didn't want to leave. A very protective hen. A great opportunity to take a pic of her.
 #9. The perfect solution!!! Many BB'ders carry along nesting materials, just for this situation, an IC pail of short dried grass or white pine needles. Never know when you'll need it. Also good for wet nests in early Spring when Northeast/East cold windy rain blows in box.
 #10&11 Go back ASAP to these boxes and take along nesting material. Form a make-shift nest (could do that at home ahead of time.) Carefully remove the eggs and put them in a grass lined container. Take your spatula tool and clean out old TS nest and droppings. This will cut way down on blow-fly infestation and ants and gnats using old nest to lay their own eggs which will victimize baby BLUES. Wear gloves as there might also be tiny mites in old nest. Toss far away from box. Place new nest inside and re-place eggs. The hen will re-shape the nest to her liking. This works very well and is a "standard" monitoring procedure of BRAW members.

For the "BLUES.....Larry
Winnebago CC Dave Misterek: I noted the Winnebago County summary that you included in the County Coordinator News for the summer issue of Wis Bluebird Newsletter.

Thank you. The county summaries are always very interesting. I also noted that no appointee is listed for Winnebago County in the list of Coordinators. Please add my contact into: Dave Misterek
 dmisterek47@gmail.com

As a recent activity update, I did conduct a BRAW display at day and evening events as part of the annual Oshkosh Bird Fest, held on May 7. I also gave guidance and assistance to Trevor Gardner of Boy Scout Troop 59 of New London. For his Eagle Scout Project, he organized a group of his scouts to pre-cut and pre-drill enough wood for 50 NABS style bluebird house kits. He then organized the project to assist youngsters at Oshkosh Bird Fest to construct their own bluebird house and take it home for free to install following BRAW bluebird guidance included with each birdhouse kit. Trevor and his assistants were successful in providing all 50 birdhouse kits to very appreciative young birders to be at this event. Congratulations Trevor!

Dane County CC Pat Ready: Steve Sample & I did a nest box workshop on the UW campus in Madison on June 21. We had 10 4H kids that listened to a quick presentation on Eastern Bluebirds and why we monitor nest boxes. Then we took the kids outside and made NABS boxes from kits I premade at home. Each assembled their nest boxes and took them home to put up in hopes of attracting a pair of bluebirds.

BRAW welcomes these new and returning members

Joni Welda – LaCrescent, MN
Raj and Jen Bodicharla – Stratford – *Gift from Parents, Jeff and Kathy Koppa*
Bryan and Annette Palchik – Mount Horeb
Dees Family – Weston – Welcome Back!
Dr. James Rice – Eldorado
Delbert Parkinson – Phillips – Welcome Back!
Melanie Weberg – Osceola
Mark Surprenant – LaCrosse – Welcome Back!

Reducing Raccoon Predation with Noel Guards

By Gene Birr, Oconto County Coordinator

Trying to provide nesting opportunities for bluebirds is the primary goal we bluebirders seek when we build, place, and monitor our nest boxes. These boxes merely offer the bluebirds an opportunity to select a site where they can choose to attempt to raise a brood of young with a hopeful chance of success. However, that success is affected by several factors that may limit the productivity of a nesting pair of bluebirds. Among these are the competition for the use of a nest box by other native, cavity-nesting songbirds and invasive, aggressive House Sparrows. By carefully selecting the placement of a nest box we can improve it being chosen by a bluebird, and our attentive use of Van Ert traps can help to eliminate the sparrows. The cold, wet weather in early spring limits the availability of the bugs and insects that bluebirds feed upon, and the variable of each season's weather is the condition that can most adversely affect nesting productivity and the viability of eggs and chicks.

While monitoring my trails since joining BRAW nearly ten years ago, I have had to deal with each of these factors that limit bluebird production to some degree or another. The problem that causes the most concern for us and the bluebirds, I believe, is the destruction created by raccoons when they climb our poles and then raid the nest boxes of the bluebirds' nests, eggs and young. Other than the effect of bad weather, nothing limits bluebird numbers as much as the loss to raccoons.

I have experimented with many techniques to lessen this loss. Early on, Steve Mayer and I used 5/4" pipe for our posts, then switched to using 3/4" conduit, thinking that a thinner pipe would be harder for the coons

to climb. For several years I sprayed the poles with silicone spray a couple times per season. I have used car wax paste on many of my posts while brushing others with used motor oil multiple times at other locations where I feared raccoon predation. When other BRAW members suggested using carpet tack strips attached to the posts, I eagerly tried them think-



ing that would be effective. But in my experience all of these practices have resulted in failure. While using each technique multiple times, the raccoons have defeated my attempts to defeat them. The only practice that has proven to work for me in thwarting raccoons is the use of a wire cage Noel Guard attached to the front of each nest box that is occupied by bluebirds. Two years ago after again experiencing the loss of several BB nests to raccoons, I installed Noel Guards on five of my nest boxes after eggs were laid during the bluebirds' second nestings. At that time I had only 5 guards to work with and before I could re-use one after an earlier brood had fledged, a raccoon destroyed the nest of a 6th BB pair where I could have used another. None of these 5 boxes equipped with Noel Guards was destroyed by

coons. Encouraged by this success using NG's, after hearing the testimony of similar results reported by Pat Ready and others at the 2014 BRAW Fall Convention, I vowed to embark on a larger experimental study on my Bluebird trail in the 2015 season.

During the winter of 2014-15, I created 50 Noel Guards using 18" long pieces of 1/2" hardware cloth cut into pieces 6 1/2" wide. Then I shaped them into rectangles 6" high, 3" wide and 6" deep, after flaring out the extra 1/2" to use it to attach them with screws to the front of each box. In late spring as I began to install them on many of my boxes, I received requests from fellow monitors who wanted them on their boxes as well, so that by mid-season I had completed making more than one hundred of them.

For my study I kept note of each nest box of my 105 box trail, detailing when I first used a Noel Guard on each. I left the guards on three of the boxes from the prior season where I thought it likely for bluebirds to nest again. I had some concern that the birds might be reluctant to use a box with this wire cage already attached over the nesting hole, before nesting. Consequently, I decided to attach most of them to a nest box

only after a bluebird pair had selected it, built a nest, and laid all of its eggs.

Throughout the nesting season of 2015, Bluebirds eventually occupied 57 of the 105 nest boxes of my trail. By season's end I had placed Noel Guards on 55 of these, attaching them to 45 boxes after a bluebird had laid all its eggs. On 3 occasions the guards were put on one week after finding the beginning of a bluebird nest, when I didn't have them with me on my earlier visit. With 7 nest boxes I placed the wire cages after finding only one or two BB eggs in them. In each of these instances the bluebird nest was completed by the next week with several more eggs being laid, indicating the birds were not discouraged by the addition of the cage. Initially the actively nesting bluebird pair show some discomfort while becoming familiar

with the guards. I have observed them often taking 10 to 20 minutes fluttering nearby or landing on the wire before they eventually become satisfied enough to re-enter their nest box, but then later treating it as if they were sitting on a porch.

I observed several other interesting instances where I attached the guards to my boxes. Although I deliberately only used them on active BB nest boxes, I did have some encounters with Tree Swallows using them. On one TS nest box that had been raided the previous year, I added a guard thinking it was likely to be used by a BB this year—which it was—successfully fledging a BB brood. In another area where I have recurring coon problems, I had TS's in one unguarded box between two active BB boxes with guards. After finding the two week old brood of TS's lost to coons in this box, there appeared to be early sign of re-nesting. So I attached a new NG to this box and the following week I found a completed BB nest with 3 eggs, built over the old TS nest, which later fledged one chick.

On my entire trail I had left only two nest boxes occupied by bluebirds without guards. I left these as test boxes to see if I could leave some unguarded without them losing eggs or chicks to coons. These two were part of my 10 box trail at Oconto Falls High School which appears to be nearly a half mile from any wooded area, so that the likelihood of a raccoon attack would be minimal. I had already successfully raised 4 BB broods in my other boxes with guards and in one box without on this school property by mid July, but then I found 3 lost BB eggs from the other unguarded box. Although I could see no raccoon's scratches or any direct indication of coons on this box, in the following week I found scratches on the next nest box occupied with 4 BB chicks, which fledged successfully that week.

In total, 325 bluebirds fledged from 88 nesting attempts on my trail, but only one of these was lost to raccoons from the second nest box that wasn't fitted with a Noel Guard. Every BB nesting that was attempted in the 55 boxes with a NG was successful, as I did not lose a single BB egg or chick from any of them to raccoons.

Other BRAW members in NE Wisconsin have reported similarly good results to me. Wendy Bekx, who monitors a trail in Outagamie County, had experienced heavy loss of her BB nests on a golf course in Hortonville and in a Greenville park in 2014. On a very cold and snowy day in April she and I placed Noel Guards on every one of the 15 boxes on the golf course and later she added them to five at the park that were threatened by raccoons. She too had concerns that the bluebirds that were just beginning to lay eggs in their nests would abandon them when they encountered these wire cages on their boxes. A week later she cheerily reported that every BB nest had continued to have additional nesting and eggs laid. Later she disclosed that in her 20 boxes with Noel Guards only one showed any loss of BB eggs. This box had a 4 egg nest reduced to one, but I think it just as likely that it was the victim of a House Wren. She and her husband Gary will be making their own NG's to add to other boxes on her trail this spring. Steve Mayer also installed NG's on his boxes on a trail in Brown County after losing several nests during the later stage of first nesting bluebirds. Raccoons had destroyed one TS nest and a BB nest, so in early July he placed guards on both and several others with nests. When we checked on them later raccoons had ruined two nests—one of House Wren chicks and one of BB young. They had climbed the posts and reached past the Noel Guards into the nest. We then measured the depth of the guards and found they were only 5" and 5 ½" deep. I had mistakenly made some smaller to get the most use of the wire, rather than making them the recommended 6" deep. It now seems very important to me that a Noel Guard be made at least 6" deep so to prevent a very large, mature and determined raccoon from reaching the nest. These were the only instances reported to me resulting in nest failure. I understand that Kent Hall's ALAS trail in central Wisconsin had some guard failures, but the reason for these has not yet been determined. They are now testing an elongated, narrower version of the guard to see if it would be more effective.

The best evidence I offer to illustrate

the effectiveness of the use of Noel Guards on Bluebird nest boxes is what their use did to reduce the bluebird mortality on my trail. Mortality is the measure of the difference between the total number of BB eggs laid and the actual number of bluebirds fledged, represented as a percentage, indicating the number of potential bluebirds that are lost to all causes. My annual BB mortality rate has varied from a low of 25.6% in both 2012 and 2014 to a high of 36.5% in 2011. In previous years dating back to 2009, the BB mortality was a 6 year average of 30.7% and my TS mortality averaged 28%, before my extensive use of Noel Guards in 2015. This year the BB mortality dropped dramatically from 30.7% to a new low of 20.7%, nearly a one-third reduction of bluebirds lost. This full 10% change in mortality represents 41 more bluebirds that fledged from the 410 bluebird eggs laid on my trail this year, compared to what would have been produced with a normal average mortality. That is 41 more bluebirds that otherwise likely would have been lost to raccoons if not for my use of Noel Guards.

Other monitors, I know, have had good success with the many other forms of raccoon protection, such as galvanized stove pipe, cone-shaped baffles and dryer vent pipe covering their posts. Still others claim using car wax paste, silicone spray, Vaseline or carpet tack strips on their poles works for them. These methods can be time and cost efficient on small trails on one's own property but the use of Noel Guards on a trail with a high number of boxes seems to be the best solution for me. The actual cost of making one is less than 50 cents and each can be made in less than 10 minutes after selecting and cutting the pieces of hardware cloth. Although I did not lose any bluebird nests, I did lose 6 nests of Tree Swallows to raccoons. It is likely I will add Noel Guards to nearly every other nest box on my trail and leave all the others attached to prevent any future harm to nesting birds. Based on my experiences this past season, I strongly urge other monitors to consider using Noel Guard wire cages on next boxes on their trails where raccoon predation remains a constant threat.

Students Monitor Cavity Nesting trail at Roosevelt Elementary School



The Aldo Leopold Audubon Society has been helping to preserve cavity nesting songbirds in Central Wisconsin for the past 14 years. Presently they have 80 monitors who record data for over 1400 nest boxes in Adams, Clark, Marathon, Monroe, Portage, Waupaca and Wood counties each week starting late March through August. One of the highlights has been involving the younger generation. Each spring, Audubon member, Kent Hall visits schools and introduces students to the importance of preserving cavity nesting birds. He shows them the different nests and eggs that each species produces and provides each of the students with data sheets so they can become school monitors and record the type of nest, number of eggs in the nests, date of hatch and when they fledge. He returns to the schools each week to take the classes out to do the monitoring. Recently, one of the three classes at Roosevelt School was visited when the 3rd graders were monitoring their boxes. Mrs. Darla Peanasky and her student teacher, Nick Prebelski, assisted Hall as he led the groups around the school grounds to predict what they would find in their 8 boxes. The students eagerly looked at their data sheets to see what had

been there the previous week and were eager to find additional eggs or hatchlings in their boxes. They carefully observed the chicks and noted the development from the previous week. Some of their comments included: "My favorite part was seeing the babies and their bright beaks. They were bright so their mom can find them and feed them" –Sophia; "We could look at their bellies to see whether their mom was feeding them or not" – Mali; "I really enjoyed holding the baby chicks because they were cute and cuddly" -Donovan; "We got to hold the baby chicks in our hands"-Edison; "I thought the experience of handling these baby chicks was treasured by all of our students. It was truly an eye-opening experience for students and teachers. I enjoyed seeding the students be "hands on" and actually record the data about these birds. It brought smiles to their faces. This will be a lasting memory for them."-Nick Prebelski, student teacher. Hall reports that a lot of the members of the environmental groups to which he belongs have an older membership and says Audubon feels it is important to inspire the youth of tomorrow to become involved in nature.

**Check out the
BRAW
web store at
www.cafepress/braw**



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BRAW receives a small profit from all items sold on cafepress.

Make a Noel Guard

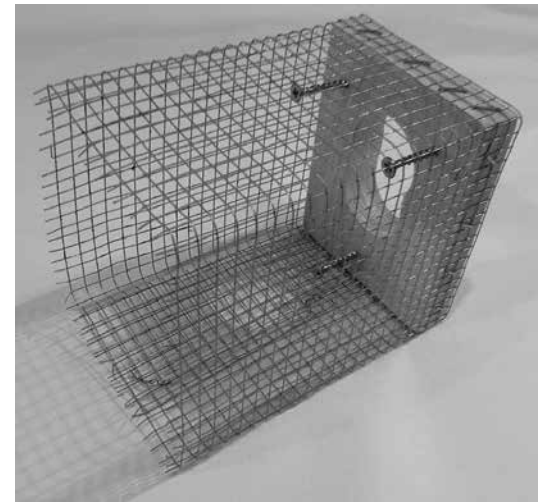
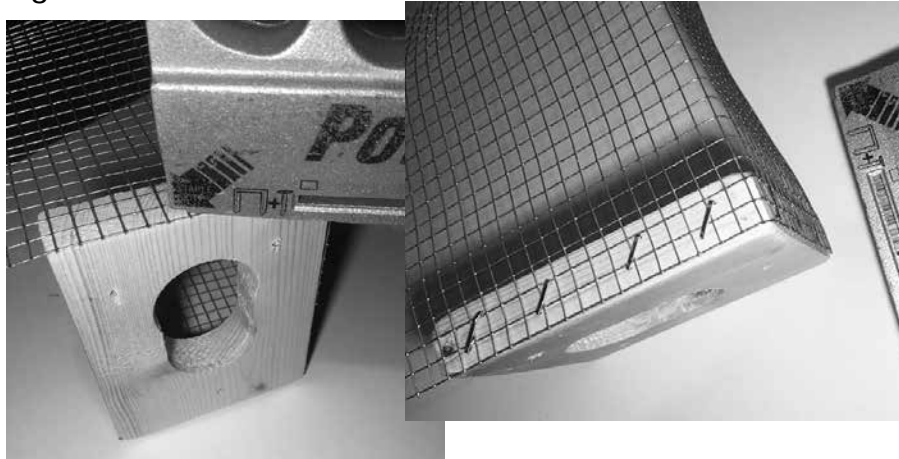
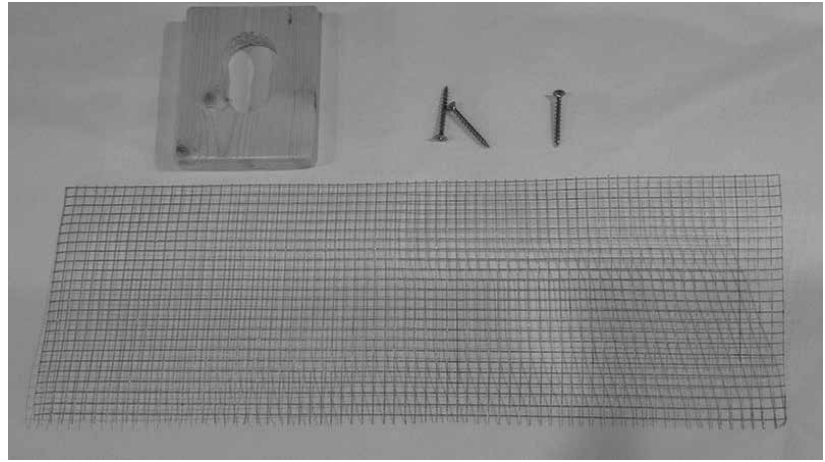
Materials:

- 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.

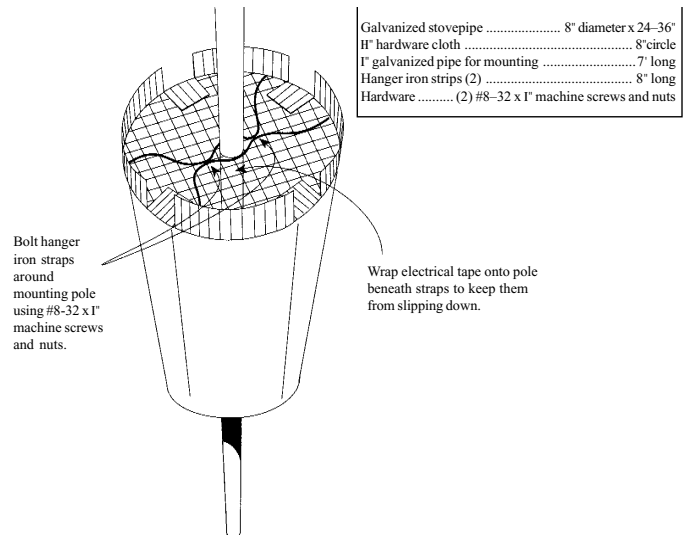
Starting on the bottom wrap the hardware cloth around the wood piece stapling it several times as you go. Drill 3 holes for screws in the wood piece for easy fastening to the box.



Make a Stove Pipe Coon Guard



A coon baffle can be made from stove pipe to prevent a coon from climbing up the pole.



Using tin snips, shape hardware cloth into a circle. Make a small cut in the center so it will slip over the mounting pole. Bend the edges of the hardware cloth down and slide it snugly into the stovepipe. Cut four tabs on the top end of the stovepipe. Bend them inward, over the hardware cloth.

The complete plan above to make a Stove Pipe Guard is available on the website nestboxbuilder.com

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: _____

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- \$15 to nest box construction with post & predator guard
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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**, 815 Sky Ridge Dr. 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 • ssample@gmail.com (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 12/18)
- **Director Fred Craig**, 3308 Nathan Lane, Holmen WI 54636 • 608/783-2225 • 266marycraig@gmail.com (term to 12/18)
- **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 Soo 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: Jean-Pierre Lafouge**, 9154 North Fielding Road, Bayside, WI 53217-1834 • 414-352-6697
- **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



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Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin Inc.

In Recognition & Appreciation

The Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin extends its appreciation for providing habitat to support the conservation of Wisconsin's Eastern Bluebirds to

Your Location Here

Patrick Ready, BRAW, Inc.

Your name here, Trail Monitor

Appreciation Certificates Available

I would like to make trail monitors aware that BRAW Certificates of Appreciation are available at no cost to our members. If you monitor a trail on a golf course, cemetery, church or other location that you would like to recognize for their support of your trail, we will provide you with a certificate suitable for framing. Just send me the location name and how you would like your name to appear and we will mail one to you. You can email me the information at ribriver2@wild-blue.net or for regular mail – Claire Romanak, BRAW Publicity Chair, 7175 Nehrbass Road, Athens, WI 54411.

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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

Sue Schultz, Membership Chair
5221 Cheryl's Dr.,
Plover, WI 54467
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The Last Page . . .



Steve Sample & Pat Ready did a nest box workshop on the UW campus in Madison on June 21. We had eight 4H kids that listened to a quick presentation on Eastern Bluebirds and why we monitor nest boxes. Then we took the kids outside and made NABS boxes from kits I premade at home. Each assembled their nest boxes and took them home to put up in hopes of attracting a pair of bluebirds.

Surprise!



Above - When I check my Kestrel boxes I use a telescoping paint pole with my iPhone velcroed to the end. I take less than 1 minute to reach the box, raise my iPhone with the 10 second timer set, get it inside the box and click the photo and split. This female Kestrel was a big surprise when I got back to my car to see the pic. She is in "defending" mode protecting her brood. - Pat Ready



Left- Chimney Swifts are a special type of "cavity nester" found in Wisconsin. They use the insides of old brick chimneys for their nest. Some will also use an old, hollow, rotting tree trunk to nest if it's deep enough. Jim Edlhuber heard about some swifts that were using an old barn silo in Ozaukee County and he was able to get some pretty rare photos showing Chimney Swifts in the nest.