

Fall 2018
Vol. 33, 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

Summertime Blues?

Send in your data!

see page 2



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Inside this issue: President's Message - 2 • EZ Summary Form - 3 •
County Coordinator News - 4 • BRAW Q&A- 6 • Lessons Learned - 7 • E. Screech Owl - 7 •
Monitoring Kestrel Boxes - 8 • NABS Style Box Plan - 9 • 4H & Blues - 12 • BRAW Online Store - 12



A Word from the Prez

Another nesting season has come to an end. I'm curious to know how we did this year with the late start in spring.

Most of the state had heavy snow after mid-April. I'm expecting the numbers of fledged bluebirds to be down. Although I have heard from a few monitors who say they had their best season yet! Most of my trails did okay but I did have 2 in eastern Dane Co. that had no bluebirds at all. One of those trails used to host 5 pair a few years ago. The other trail is a new golf course trail. House Sparrows and Tree Swallows were factors there but still with perfect habitat there were no bluebirds at all? A year like this one means our data reports are more important than ever. Our records need to record how things went state-wide. Please take the time to send in your data for this season by the end of September. Fill out a BRAW EZ Summary Form from the next page or you can do it online from our website braw.org. There is a link to the form on the home page **2018 EZ Form**. Just fill in the data and hit submit.

We can't do anything about the weather but we can start planning for next year. Fall is the time to evaluate your trail or nest box(es) to see what needs to be done. Replace old boxes? Move to better habitat? Reset poles that are leaning? In my case I have a trail that these days may not be worth continuing. It is my first trail I started

monitoring back in the late '90s. The trail is located in Lake Kegonsa State Park. My best season there was back in 2012 when I fledged 152 Bluebirds!! At one time this trail had 26 boxes, most in very good bluebird habitat. But over the years the trees, shrubs and weeds have invaded the open areas that bluebirds prefer. On a recent check of the 15 boxes remaining only 1 or 2 are close to suitable habitat for bluebirds. And one of those near the ball field is surrounded by snags and brush where the field borders the prairie. A House Wren nest was in this box when I checked it. My monitor there told me during the summer the wrens were taking over. That was why I had to go check things out myself. Amazing how fast things change in a few years. State & county parks don't have the money nor the manpower to cut & mow like they used to. They do burn the prairies but not as often as they once did. When prairies aren't burned the invasive trees like Wild Cherry, Walnut, Black Locust and Honeysuckle move in especially near the borders. There goes the bluebird habitat.

This fall & winter I will be working on *The Spring Thing!* an event we will be co-sponsoring with the Horicon Bird Club in March. I will also be planning our next convention to be held in fall of next year. More details on these will be in future newsletters.

Thanks for all you do for bluebirds. Keep up the good work!

Patrick Ready

The Prez

Please Send in Your 2018 Data!

By Steve Fallon, Data Collection

The BRAW EZ Summary Form is what you need 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 5 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.

The next page has copies of the EZ Form. It's also available as a download on the website - www.braw.org. **You can also fill in the form and submit it directly from our website!!**

For a paper version, fill it out (one per county) and mail it to: **Data Summary Director**
974 Halcyon Days Ct., Oregon, WI. 53575

Email to:
wisconsinbluebirds@gmail.com
or use the Easy Fill-in Form on our website: www.braw.org

Please note: If you are reporting data and part of a large trail make sure the data only gets reported to us one time. If you want individual recognition for your trail monitoring effort send BRAW your data report but make sure your trail manager doesn't include your info in his report to BRAW.



BRAW Joins Amazon Smiles!

Amazon has become the largest on-line ordering site in the country. It has also 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. If you have any questions, contact me (Steve Sample). We thank you.

Members: If you do not have your current e-mail address on file with BRAW, please consider doing so. By communicating with our membership via e-mail we can get you information between issues of the WB. Contact the membership director, Mike Ray at mike.joseph.ray@gmail.com and make sure he has your current email address. Thank you!

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 Bluebirds*
_____ Bluebird eggs laid _____ Bluebird eggs hatched
_____ Bluebirds fledged * _____ Tree Swallows fledged
_____ Chickadees fledged _____ House Wrens fledged

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

*County _____ Year: _____

*Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*Phone (_____) - _____

email: _____

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

Comments: _____

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

Thank You!

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*Phone (_____) - _____

email: _____

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

Comments: _____

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

Thank You!

County Coordinator News

By Carol McDaniel

Each County Coordinator has their own trails and encourage other bluebirders to maintain, monitor and report to BRAW on those. It seems that we always get fired up about bluebirding in the Spring but, sometimes, that enthusiasm gets overshadowed with Summer activities, responsibilities and sweltering heat. Information gathered from weekly trail checks provides BRAW with information on how the bluebirds and other birds are doing.

Be sure to send in your trail reports to BRAW. See page 2 on how to get it to us. Thanks for all you do for Bluebirds!

Gene Birr, Oconto Co.

My first experiments using the "skylight" boxes have been successful. I have placed 3 of them at bluebird habitat sites where I had removed 13 House Sparrows during the last three years. This season these boxes each fledged one brood of Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and Bluebirds. These are all rural roadside boxes that are easily seen while driving by, and I never witnessed any sparrows and never had to set a Van Ert trap. I intend to try them on other trails next year.

The mid-April blizzard seems to have impacted my 110 box trail significantly. I found 4 dead bluebirds in boxes this spring. Barb Allen reported finding the same number of lost bluebirds on her trails. I have experienced a one-third reduction of bluebird nests and expect to have fledged nearly a hundred less birds this season than last. Meanwhile, at least two of our monitors in Oconto have reported much better results. Cordula Van Den Heuvel raised broods in 3 of 4 boxes on one of her trails.

Also, Joanne Altergott was monitoring a trail at The Irish Greens Golf Course two miles away that had at least 7 bluebird pair nesting out of 14 boxes. There the House Sparrow number was way down from last year, too. We removed only one this spring compared to nearly 10 last year. My sparrow



Gene is holding a "sky-light" box- it has a 3" hole in the roof and the entire roof is covered with plexi-glass. House Sparrows dislike the amount of light being let in, but bluebirds don't mind it.

numbers were down by two-thirds on my trails also. So perhaps the skylight boxes and the late snowstorm had some beneficial impact for bluebirds.

The late spring nesting hasn't seemed to deter the bluebirds from nesting late into the summer. As of July 20, I still had bluebirds raising broods in 21 of my houses. Several have used different boxes after the Tree Swallows had fledged and the bluebirds found them in early July.

Patrick Ready, Dane Co.

The season got off to a rough start with bad weather in April and Tree Swallows taking over nest made by Bluebirds! However by late summer many monitors were reporting good numbers of Bluebirds fledged. Not all though. Some trails didn't get any this year. I believe the heavy snow in mid-April was to blame. It seemed like a good year for House Wrens for some.

In June Steve Sample & I gave a Bluebird workshop for kids attending the 4-H Week on the UW campus. This was our 3rd year doing this. We gave them a short presentation on Eastern Bluebirds and why we need younger



folks to help keep up our mission. The kids then assembled nest boxes to take home. Next year we plan to take them on a bus trip to a trail to actually monitor nest boxes so they can see what we do. Then they will build their own nest box from kits we provide.

The Sauk Trail Optimist Club in Madison invited me to give my presentation on Bluebirds at their luncheon on Aug. 8. A few of them have monitored nest boxes in the past. A small group attended and I got a free lunch!

A couple of my trails are in county parks. I was pleased to see they put up signs telling people there are birds nesting and be mindful of them. Keep dogs leashed!

Bob Tamm, Milwaukee Co.

Muskego Park is my original trail and dates back to the 1980s. Good trail over the decades. This year, since there are still some of the original boxes on the trail, I decided to give the park a facelift. Since I built between 40 and 50 boxes over the winter, I took out all the old boxes and installed new ones. So far, so good.

Right after the snowy days of April, I went back to the park to make sure all was well with my new boxes. It looked pretty good, except I noticed there were a couple of boxes that I was SURE I 'planted', but they were gone - post, hardware, and box - all gone. So I second guessed myself... like, maybe I only THOUGHT I installed 'em there. Or, maybe some new park employee removed them to do something with the grounds around it. I was basically in denial that something worse had occurred. So I replaced missing boxes, hardware and posts with new ones.

I have been in contact with the new Wildlife/Conservation Biologist in Waukesha County - Julia Robson. She would like to expand bluebird trails in Waukesha County Parks. So we've been talking about all that's involved in doing that the RIGHT way, which includes in no small way... good monitoring. Anyway, she had mentioned to me that Dan Murray, the Muskego Pk. manager, had told her that some of my boxes were missing. But I mentioned that when I did the overhaul at the Park, I DID move some boxes to

new areas, so I thought that when he said boxes were missing, it was only that I moved them to new areas.

But, the more I thought about that, the more I felt I should go over there and see for myself. So I did. Dan the manager was right. My trail was gone. GONE! I mean, whoever did this took the posts, the hardware which connects the box to the post, and the nest boxes. Everything. Dan happened to be planting some trees at the park, and I told him I can't believe this happened.

In the days after this 'discovery', I have met with a Deputy County Sheriff and my County Supervisor. Julia is also aware of what happened. These thieves went in TWICE and stole the new setups. I am convinced that \$\$\$ was the motive. If I had left the old boxes, I'm sure they wouldn't have bothered stealing them. I am pushing for surveillance cameras at the entrances of these parks. They're everywhere we go, in convenience stores, grocery store, gas stations, you name it. Why can't we have one at the entrance of these parks?

People I talked to thought it was a great idea, but I'm not holding my breath for County or State government to spend the money on this. It wasn't their \$\$\$ lost. We'll see what happens.

I actually discovered two boxes that the thieves did NOT get. I have them in fairly remote areas, so the concerted effort of these low lifes only included taking the visible setups. They probably brought their pick up truck in after dark and did their dirty work then. Since I pound these posts in quite deep, it is no small task to get them out, so this theft took some time to pull off. Two side points: First, the two boxes that were spared both have bluebird nests in them. Second, half the boxes that were stolen had bluebird activity in them. That didn't matter to whoever took them.

This is a federal offense, and from what I saw, 6 months to a year in jail and a \$15,000 fine. Many of us in our neighborhood are looking for my boxes at some rummage or garage sale. We are also routinely checking Craigs list and ebay. Never know - it's a long shot, but these guys have to sell 'em somehow, someway.

I'd love to see some justice done!

Donna & Bill Stehling, Sauk Co.

Some years back, fourth graders of our school district had come to visit the Badger Lands. Just before these elementary students were supposed to leave, I asked a group of students to stand against the bus, shortest students in the front row, and be very quiet. Then I took the nest out of house 29 and brought it over for them to look at.

I told them these chicks were newly hatched baby Bluebirds. They were just out of their eggs - 1, 2, and 3 days old, almost naked and blind. But in 14 days they would be ready to fly. I told the students they had to be quiet so they would not frighten the baby birds.

As they looked at the nest, their eyes widened and they whispered. Teachers said they whispered all the rest of that day in school, then Thursday, Friday and the weekend. It was a while before the students raised their voices. They whispered when they spoke about baby birds.

Kent D. Hall, Waupaca, Wood, Portage, Clark & Marathon Counties

The severe, spring snow storm caused a 2 to 3 week delay in the onset of the 2018 nesting season for Eastern Bluebirds. As expected, however, the end of the season was at the same time as in the previous 16 years of the Audubon Bluebird Trail. That is, nesting and egg-laying were almost 100% over by the end of July.

This season we will fledge about 4,000 bluebirds (3.0 per box), a drop of 22% per box from last season. Because bluebirds had not occupied boxes by the time Tree Swallows arrived, they had a record production of nearly 2,000 fledglings. This was the worst ratio of bluebirds to swallows (2.0) in our history. Usually, that ratio is about 4 to 1.

Chickadees also occupied our boxes in record numbers but their survival rate was quite low. Wrens were the most abundant in our history, but removal of dummy nests and wiring open boxes for a week, kept their fledged numbers below our record.

Editor's Note: *Kent informed me he is stepping down from his CC duties due to health reasons. Thanks Kent for 10 years of service!*

New & Returning BRAW Members

Deb Potts - Weyauwega
Deborah Zierk - Kenosha
Janet Raddatz - Plymouth
Judy Smith - Dousman
Karen Kinziger - Fond du Lac
Lynne Haynor - Madison
Mark Ritzinger - River Falls
Michelle Mellencamp - Milwaukee
Nancy Hagan - Madison
Stanley King - River Falls
Deborah Zierk - Kenosha
Nancy Crawford - Grand Junction

Donations over \$100:

- **Doris Pierzchalski** - Allenton
- **The Harold Ramon Cram, Jr.** Bluebird Restoration Fund of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

Corrections:

Summer 2018 incorrectly listed Michael Mordan as a new member and donor -- Michael Morgan has been a member since 2004

We are saddened to report the death of a long-time BRAW member, Beverly Inez (Towne) Schoonover-Mathey, age 72, of Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Bev is survived by her loving husband and best friend Ray E. Mathey, her two sons, five Grandchildren, and two Great-Grandchildren. Our condolences go out to her family.



Give the gift of BLUEBIRDS!

A gift subscription to BRAW is a wonderful way to get friends into bluebirds and share your enjoyment with others.

BRAW Q&A

By Patrick Ready, Editor

Over the summer I received several emails from monitors asking for help with problems they were having with their nest box or trails.

BRAW-

I have bluebirds nesting and they have chicks in the nest. When I checked the nest this week I saw ants in the bottom. I'm concerned they may harm the chicks. What should I do?

Jean
Verona, WI

Jean-

A common problem. A couple remedies to try. Put a tablespoon of diatomaceous earth under the nest. The ants will leave. Get it at garden centers. A "home remedy" you could try is put a tablespoon of cinnamon under the nest. Ants hate cinnamon! Or put a Bay Leaf under the nest. I'm told that works too.

Patrick
BRAW



BRAW-

At the end of the season we were cleaning out a nest box that was full of these seeds. Any idea what they are and why they were in a bluebird nest?

Sandy
Verona

Sandy-

These are cherry pits. Adult bluebirds feed wild cherries to their young in mid-summer. Helps hydrate the chicks in the heat of summer and probably a treat from eating dry insects all the time! That's a lot of pits!!

Patrick
BRAW

BRAW-

With the late spring snow we had NO bluebirds in any of our seven houses in 2018. Is anyone aware if they will return next year or if/when they back migrate they don't return the following year?

We have been getting bluebirds in our nest boxes here in central WI for 20 plus years and it is safe to say we were so disappointed when spring finally came but the bluebirds did not. Anything we can do for 2019?

Thank you for any info you may have or any contacts.

Bill and Joan
Westfield, WI

Bill & Jean-

The big snow in central Wis took its toll on our bluebirds. Especially males that were here claiming territories. I had several reports of monitors finding 5-6 dead males in boxes from the cold & snow. No food for several days did them in. Then in May I started getting reports like yours, no blues were around at all. Some had females but males were scarce.

I was quite surprised in mid-late summer of others having very good years!!! Along Lk Michigan bluebirds seemed to have a normal season!! Here in Dane Co it was mixed. I ended up doing OK while others not as good but they did have nesting bluebirds at least.

So what will next year bring? Well we have to wait & see. I think if we have decent spring weather you will have bluebirds again. When they migrate back males will stay where they find good habitat with nest boxes.

One unknown factor in all this is the weather. Climate Change is affecting us. Spring seems shorter every year and late snows more common. Summers are hotter & more humid.

Winters are warmer, less snow in areas then we use to get. The Blues can rebound from a bad season. That's nature's way. Just how many bad starts with big losses can they take?

We'll find out nest spring!

Patrick
BRAW

BRAW-

We found a dead bluebird in our nest box and when we cleaned it out we noticed a paper wasp nest hanging

from the ceiling. Did the wasp kill the bluebird?

Ann & Jim
Jefferson Co.

Ann & Jim-

Very unlikely the wasp killed the bluebird. Bluebirds don't nest in boxes where wasp are inside the box and wasp don't make nest in occupied boxes. The wasp probably moved in after the bluebird died. Not sure what killed your bluebird. Cleaning it out was the right thing to do. Better luck next time.

Patrick
BRAW



BRAW-

When monitoring my trail I found this box smashed in from the side. There are scratches on the wood. Any idea what would cause this type of damage?

Jean
Verona

Jean-

Most likely a racoon determined to get inside for the eggs or chicks. Older boxes like these are not a good idea to continue using because the wood is too dry & brittle. I see there was a Noel coon guard on the front of the box. Looks like it did prevent the coon from reaching in through the entrance. But that coon was too strong for the old wood. I suggest this box be replaced in fall. Keep the coon guard for the new box!

Patrick
BRAW



Lessons Learned

Trailing

By Gene Kroupa

Yes, I admit it. I am a newbie at putting up bluebird houses and creating my own trails.

But along the way, I have learned a thing or two. Like with real estate, it's location, location, location.

The best positioned bluebird houses drew more nesting bluebird pairs. Three boxes situated on a pasture fenceline were filled with chicks and blue eggs. Two boxes a hundred yards across a crop field from them and set along a woods' edge drew pesky wrens.

And it's never too late to put up houses – especially when there's a late spring with snow and cold temps in April. Two well-located houses I put up in mid-May quickly drew late arriving bluebirds. Both pairs successfully fledged offspring.

Landowners will gladly allow erecting bluebird houses on their places. To seal the deal, put at least one house where they can easily see it and daily watch "their" bluebirds.

Regular checks and cleaning are necessary: first to remove sparrow nests, second to get an accurate nesting success audit, and third to encourage repeat nesting.

Sparrows are truly the terrible bluebird nemesis we portray them. One day I proudly showed by daughter-in-law a nest with five second-clutch eggs. Two days later, the eggs were scattered on the ground below the box.

The mix of successes and failures during my first year of trailing has proved to be educational. I'll be a bit more savvy next year, and hopefully the bluebirds will benefit.

Eastern Screech Owl

By Sue Cashman, Lafayette County Bluebird Society

Megascops asio, the Eastern Screech Owl, has 16 other names, including Spirit Owl, Dusk Owl, and Ghost Owl, all of which make learning about it appropriate for the fall months.

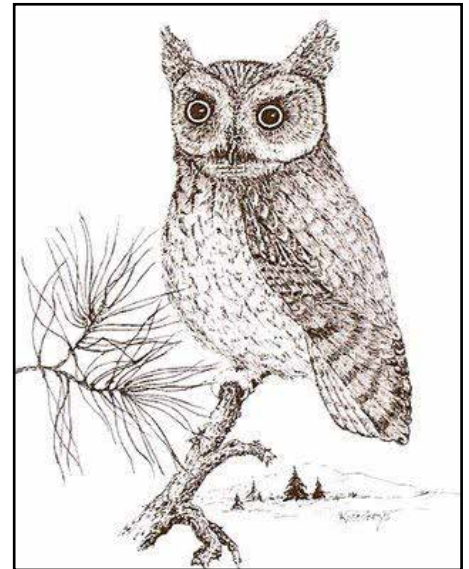
This little woodland owl is unique for many reasons. The length of the male's body measures slightly more than 8 inches. The female's body measures slightly more than 9 inches. His wingspan is 21 inches; hers is 22. If you have a ruler handy, you can appreciate how small they are. They appear in two colors or morphs: gray and reddish brown. They have gray-green bills and large yellow eyes. Their piercing calls can be heard on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology web site.

Eastern Screech Owls are found east of the Rocky Mountain, in both rural and urban areas, from Canada to Mexico. They prefer open, mixed woodlands, parklands, and wooded suburban areas. They avoid dense forests because of the presence of the Great Horned Owl, a predator. Females may go out of their range looking for food, but they do not migrate.

Their breeding season ranges from mid-March through mid-May. The males have an elaborate courtship display. He first approaches a female, calling her from different branches, until they are close. He bobs and swivels his head, bobs his entire body, and slowly winks one eye. If she ignores him, his movements intensify. If she accepts, she moves close, and they touch bills and preen each other. Pairs mate for life, accept a new mate if the previous one disappears.

They prefer to nest in deciduous tree cavities but have been observed nesting behind loose boards on abandoned buildings or barns and will also use nest boxes. They add no nesting materials and will reuse nesting cavities in consecutive years. Adults remain near breeding areas year round while juveniles leave in the autumn.

The female lays between two and eight eggs and does the majority of the incubation while the male finds food. The young owls leave the nest in about 30 days. Like many birds, the



Screech Owl by Jim Kosterlitz

adults continue to feed them after they fledge.

Eastern Screech Owls fly rapidly with a steady wing beat. They rarely glide or hover. When threatened, they stretch their bodies and tighten their feathers until they resemble a branch stub.

Hunting activity begins after sundown. They drink and bathe in shallow water at dusk and dawn and have been observed using suburban bird baths.

They hunt a wide variety of prey by diving and seizing their prey with their talons. They favor small rodents but like large insects and will hunt many species of songbirds as well as larger birds such as the Northern Bobwhite and the Ruffed Grouse. Other kinds of prey include small fish, snakes, lizards, turtles, toads, and many invertebrates. Eastern Screech Owls have been observed fishing at holes in lake ice or in open pockets of water. Clearly, they are little birds with big appetites.

Survival can be difficult as predators include Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, Snowy Owls, mink, raccoons, weasels, skunks, snakes, crows, and Blue Jays.

A good friend of mine was able to call a Screech Owl from a distance to a yard in the country. It was fascinating to know that it had approached, though I didn't see it. We eventually were able to watch it high in a tree above us. It was an amazing experience for me.

Monitoring Kestrel Boxes in Southern Wisconsin

By Patrick Ready, WB Editor

Back in 2014 I was asked to help monitor American Kestrel boxes in Dane Co. for the Madison Audubon Society. One more thing to add to my "to do list" but I was glad to try it.

Over the past 20 years American Kestrel numbers have been dropping rapidly in the Eastern U.S. and in the Midwest. Research is being done to determine the cause but no one has found any plausible reason. So far they ruled out competition from hawks, farm chemicals and lack of nesting sites.

Madison Audubon feels one way to help is by making sure they have adequate nest boxes with coon protection for Kestrel pairs to use. The boxes are mounted in the proper habitat to attract Kestrels, open country with scattered trees. Utility poles along the

road are beneficial as Kestrels sit on the wires and watch the ground below for critters.

The Kestrel diet consists mainly of small rodents, mice, voles, moles and also large insects such as grasshoppers. About 5% of their diet is small song birds hence the name "Sparrow Hawk" as they are commonly known.

When I started monitoring 5 years ago, I lived in Stoughton and I had 8 boxes to check from late April until mid-July-the usual nesting period for these small falcons. Now I live in Madison and my area is from Oregon west toward Mount Horeb. I now have 20 boxes that I check every 2 weeks or so. As the chicks get older I may check more often so I can determine the sex of the chick. This is usually after about 24 days.

Madison Audubon gave me a camera mounted to a pole for looking inside these nest boxes that are about 12 feet from the ground. The camera took still shots or video in B&W. I found it to be cumbersome tripping over cords

and too long to fit into my car. So I came up with my own rig. I bought a telescoping paint stick and a large "L" bracket. I added Velcro to the bracket and screwed it to the paint stick. Then I put Velcro on an old iPhone case I had and my iPhone records what's inside. I set it to 10 second timer, hit the button and raise it up, put it inside the 3" entrance hole and count to 10. It takes a color photo that I can then look at and see what is nesting inside. I can also do a color video if I need to. Sometimes Kestrel chicks will hide in the corners or pile up so a video helps me determine how many and what age they are.

Here are my results for the past 5 nesting seasons:

- 2014 - boxes installed
- 2015 - 4 fledged
- 2016 - 11 fledged
- 2017 - 19 fledged
- 2018 - 26 fledged

I hope our efforts will help prevent the further decline of this beautiful falcon in southern Wisconsin.



Top left: Hen Kestrel surprised by my camera. Top center: Newly hatched Kestrel chicks are little white fluff balls. They huddle close for protection and warmth. Top right: Close to 30 days old I can get a photo so I can sex the brood. Males develop the blue wings and back just like the adult male plumage. All brown indicates females. Above center: Female fledged the day I stopped to check the box. Far left: The nest box mounted on two 4x4x8' poles. By removing 1 bolt the system can drop down for cleaning and adding fresh wood chips. All data collected by Madison Audubon volunteers is sent to the American Kestrel Partnership/Peregrine Fund where they will track & analyze the information from year to year.

NABS style Bluebird Box

Cedar, 7/8" lumber preferred.

8" wide for top

6" wide for back, front, sides & bottom

All angle cuts are 10 degrees

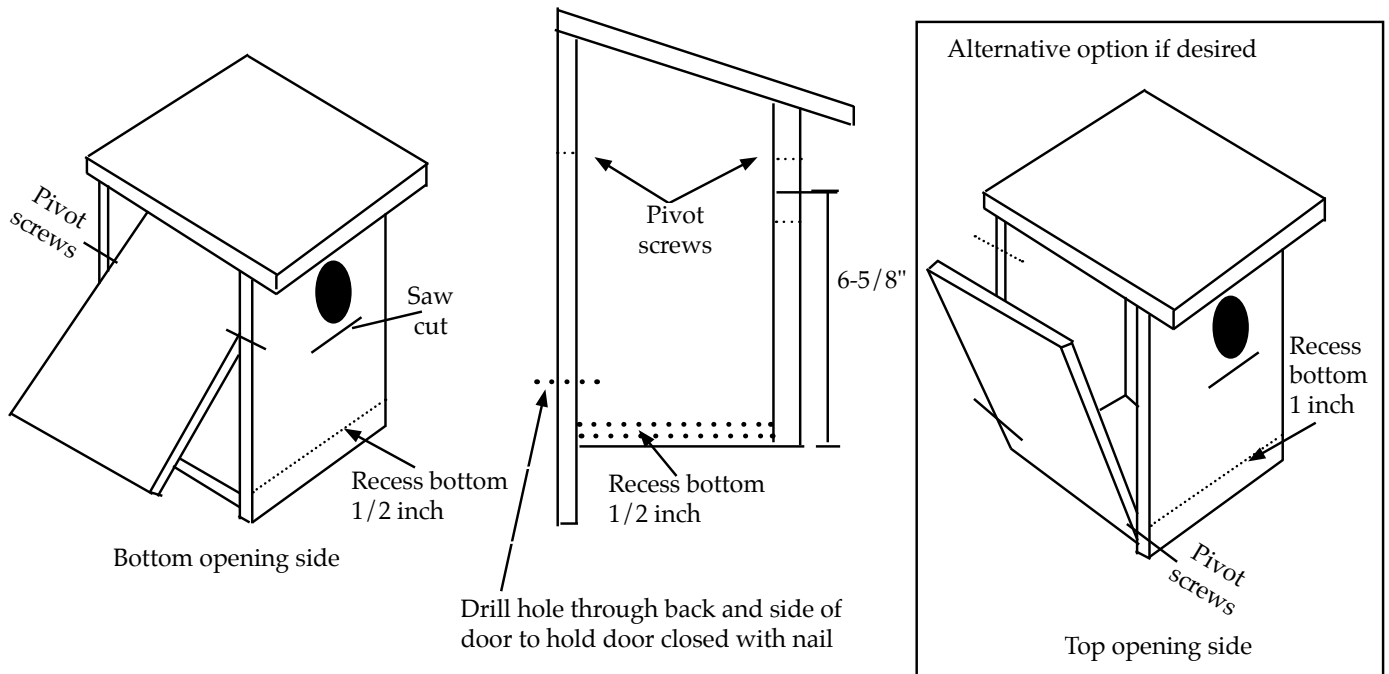
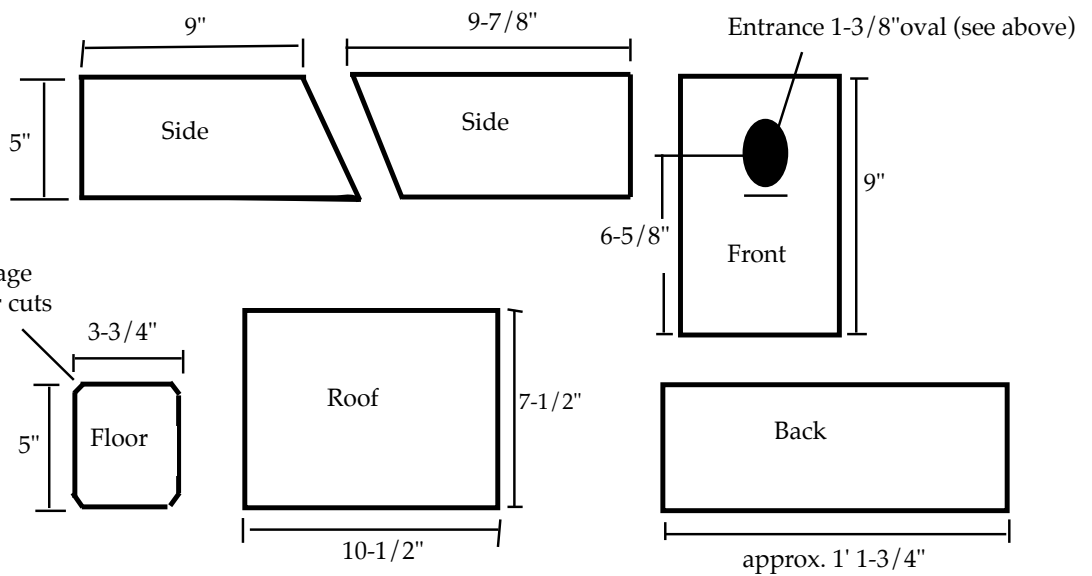
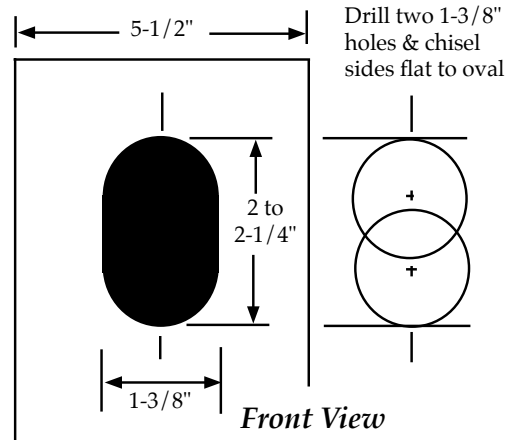
Roof is 7-1/2" wide x 10-1/2" long

Sides 9-7/8" long x 5" wide

Floor is 5" x 3-3/4"

Back & front 5-1/2" wide

Recommended Oval Hole Plan



BRAW Membership/Renewal Information

Wisconsin Bluebird Subscription and BRAW, Inc. Membership

Yes! I would like to Join/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 Annual
- \$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.
 Mike Ray
 1120 N. Pleasant View Rd. Apt 204
 Middleton, WI 53562

You can also use PayPal to renew your membership or make a contribution on the BRAW website at www.braw.org

If you join during the year you will be on a quarterly membership and *will not* receive back issues.

BRAW ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS

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

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Director Fred Craig, 3308 Nathan Lane, Holmen WI 54636 • 608/783-2225 266marycraig@gmail.com (term to 12/18)

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

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

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Funding: Dan Schroeder (see above)

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

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

Patrick Ready, President, BRAW, Inc.

(Your name here,) Trail Monitor

2018 Season

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 ssample@gmail.com or for regular mail – Steve Sample, BRAW Publicity Chair, 422 Shepard Ter. Madison, WI 53705.

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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

Patrick Ready, President

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**Send in your 2018 data
by filling out EZ Form
See p. 2 & 3**

4H Kids Learn About Bluebirds!

Patrick Ready, BRAW President
Each year in late June the UW Madison holds 4H week. We were invited to put on a Bluebird Workshop the last 3 years and the kids were thrilled to make a nest box to take home and put up for bluebirds. BRAW VP Steve Sample & I did the workshop again and had 9 kids participate. Some of these kids never built anything with their own hands before. Using tools and following directions was a learning experience. Making a Bluebird nest box was a rewarding & something they were proud of. Next year we plan to do a trail visit by bus so the kids can experience first hand what monitoring is all about. That might just get them hooked like the rest of us! The future of bluebirds is in their hands.

Critical thinking skills put to the test!



Hands-on demonstration on using tools.

The class of 2018.



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