

The Impact of Donating To BRAW: Highlights of Success Story

The Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) has been instrumental in the recovery and monitoring of Eastern bluebird populations. Here are some inspiring success stories from our conservation efforts:

1. Population Recovery:

In the 1980s, Eastern bluebird populations plummeted by 90%, and only 600 nesting pairs were observed in Wisconsin.

BRAW, established in 1986, played a crucial role in reversing this decline. Their citizen scientists erected and monitored nest boxes, providing safe nesting sites for bluebirds.

Today, thanks to collaborative efforts, Eastern bluebirds' vibrant colors and cheerful songs are common signs of spring in Wisconsin. [See WI DNR article about BRAW.](#)

2. Citizen Scientists at Work:

BRAW's 750 dedicated members monitor nearly 7,000 nest boxes annually.

They collect valuable data on bluebirds and other cavity nesters (such as tree swallows, black-capped chickadees, and house wrens) that fledge from these boxes. This data serves as an early indicator of trends, helping detect issues with nesting success or population size.

3. Improved Nest Box Design:

BRAW members' observations, combined with research from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the North American Bluebird Society, have led to better nest box designs. These improvements include optimal placement for bluebirds' needs (insect-producing forage areas and fledgling safety).

BRAW members quickly adopt advances and contribute their own insights to enhance bluebird habitats.

4. Conservation Advocacy:

BRAW collaborates with organizations like the North American Bluebird Society and elected representatives. BRAW successfully advocated for opening Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) properties in Wisconsin for erecting bluebird nest boxes.

5. Quarterly Newsletter and Bluebird Trails:

BRAW members receive the quarterly newsletter "[Wisconsin Bluebird](#)," sharing success stories, failures, and experiences related to local bluebird populations.

Taking care of a Bluebird Trail is one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences for BRAW members. [Join](#) BRAW and enjoy the bluebird experience.

Every nest box erected, every data point collected, and every bluebird protected contributes to their conservation in Wisconsin.