

Winter 2021
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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.

Significant Drop in Bluebird Numbers

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Is It Time to Renew Your Membership?

President's Report

At the time of this writing, we have not seen a preliminary report for the state on the nesting successes (or not) for 2021. (Look for this updated information in this issue). From what I have learned, most monitors are reporting significant declines in bluebird nesting attempts. The Texas winter storm really was an unfortunate event for Wisconsin bluebirds. That calamity associated with a decline in the numbers of monitors and a seemingly lack of interest by the younger generations adds to this disconcerting news. Furthermore, it isn't clear how climate changing is going to further affect our efforts. Keep the faith!



Positive news! - BRAW's website is nationally recognized as a premier website thanks to Andy Garcia-Rivera, our web master and Board member. Our webpage are mentioned in a number of nature videos and we are linked by other bluebird organization websites because of the rich and detailed web offerings Andy has included. If you haven't visited our website, it is updated weekly and continues to grow. www.braw.org

I would like to express my gratification to our very active BRAW Board of Directors. Each member has taken on projects with extraordinary efforts. Steve Fallon serves as our data coordinator and he goes the extra mile with graphs and data summaries beyond just compiling the nesting results. Pat Ready may be the past president of this organization, but you'd be hard pressed to see a diminished effort. Pat continues to give presentations for BRAW and supports me with his experiences which is greatly appreciated. Dave Lucey coordinates much of our research endeavors with Ripon College, and in addition, he is active with prairie restorations and associated prairie maintenance work that supports bluebird habitat. The BRAW Secretary, Gene Kroupa is an important contributor to BRAW in several ways. Gene's works to

expand trails such as trying to include cemetery plots as box placement sites (contact Gene if you are willing to help), communicates with other state organizations for sharing ideas, continually seeks ways to meet our goals, coordinates some of our research efforts, and important to me, is willing to advise with pertinent suggestions. Our IT person is Mike Crawford who has recently helped with developing short videos on installing boxes and predator guards. He offers much more than technology, and like all of us, monitors a significant bluebird trail. Mary Sobol certainly does not deserve to be mentioned last, she mailed out hundreds of nesting boxes with our spring 2020 program and always volunteers to help with any program or projects at hand.

Mary and Fred Craig have agreed to return as members of the Board of Directors. This return of service is significant and highly valued for their field experiences and past history with BRAW far surpasses all of us!

We have pointed out in the last issue as well as this one of WB to how our membership revenue and donations are supporting which include research about house sparrow and wren solutions, award recognition, hardware and box purchases and shipping, printing and the other things an organization like ours requires to operate. So, we are so fortunate to have Dan Schroeder MBA as our treasurer to keep this all in order. Dan has organized the BRAW bookkeeping like very few other non-profits can boast. Dan serves on several committees as well. He is the backbone of our organization and, of course, we take him for granted. Shame!

I'd be amiss not to mention Valerie Van Winkle, our membership chairperson. Keeping up with the membership roles is definitely an arduous job. This essential part of our organization is well organized and exceedingly functional especially considering the times we are in.

This team is outstanding and BRAW is as dynamic as ever because of them.

Steve
President

A Solution to the House Sparrow Problem?

Many members have reported that house sparrows will avoid using a box that is well lit on the inside, but bluebirds will readily accept such a box. BRAW is planning to conduct a study to determine if having a skylight, a piece of clear plastic in the roof, will be a passive solution to keeping house sparrows from using bluebird boxes. We plan on installing boxes, with and without plastic skylights, on trails that have had sparrow problems in the past and evaluate the findings. BRAW will be asking our members to participate in this research. More information will be presented in the winter newsletter.

BRAW & Amazon Smile!

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

Wisconsin Monitors Report Significant Drop in Bluebird Numbers for 2021

Steve Fallon, BRAW Data Director

The preliminary statewide reported total for bluebirds fledged in 2021 are shown in the table below.

These values are preliminary, because additional data is still being compiled. However, I wanted to give an update of where we stand in the state, and make an appeal to those who have not submitted their data yet, to please do so. Although the numbers are a bit disheartening so far, we'd like a complete data set to find out where we truly stand.

Early in the year, there were reports of bluebirds affected by weather down south around the time of the migration. That certainly set the birds back. Additionally, some spring weather also contributed to EAB nesting issues. To try to get a feel for the magnitude of the purported decline, I took a subset of our data from this year and compared it to the same trail results that were submitted in 2020. The year over year data is captured in the table below.

In the table, the number of boxes is nearly the same, yet the boxes used by EABs is only 75% of the 2020 value. Fewer eggs were laid and of those laid, fewer hatched. I observed infertile eggs on my own trails and many of the

reports mentioned this issue as well. All this led to having only 55% of the number of EABs fledging in this subset of data. Unfortunately, reports from other areas (e.g., MN) are showing very similar results.

Monitors reported a lack of bluebirds early in the season, and some mentioned seeing very few throughout the season. Many reported having the "worst year ever" for EAB fledges, but some monitors managed to catch up with later season broods to nearly their 2020 numbers. There were only two monitors in the above data set, that exceeded their 2020 EAB fledged numbers, one of those mentioned "best ever" totals.

While the bluebirds had issues, tree swallows which arrived a bit later, seemed to do ok. It seems like the biggest beneficiaries from the lack of early bluebirds were the chickadees. On my own trails, I had ten times the number of BCC I reported in 2020. In our next newsletter, I'll post the final results for 2021, as well as some maps to visualize differences in the state. Stay tuned!

Although the numbers are a bit disappointing, weather always has been a factor for bluebird production. At times like these, the bluebirds need us to help. As always, hats off to our monitors! Even though their endeavors weren't rewarded with as many birds as we'd ALL like to see, we appreciate all the work. Well done! I'm confident that with your continued efforts the birds will bounce back again.

| Preliminary | Year | Number of boxes: | Boxes used by Bluebirds: | Bluebird eggs laid: | Bluebird eggs hatched: | Bluebirds fledged: | Tree Swallows fledged: | Chickadees fledged: | House Wrens fledged: | Total Cavity Nesters |
|-------------|------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Totals | 2021 | 6017 | 2204 | 12351 | 10121 | 9547 | 8584 | 1889 | 4217 | 24237 |

| | Year | Number of boxes: | Boxes used by Bluebirds: | Bluebird eggs laid: | Bluebird eggs hatched: | Bluebirds fledged: | Tree Swallows fledged: | Chickadees fledged: | House Wrens fledged: | Total Cavity Nesters |
|----------------|------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Totals | 2021 | 2923 | 1203 | 6644 | 5426 | 5115 | 3582 | 982 | 1646 | 11325 |
| Totals | 2020 | 2914 | 1595 | 10899 | 9331 | 9236 | 2871 | 376 | 2157 | 14640 |
| Difference | | 9 | -392 | -4255 | -3905 | -4121 | 711 | 606 | -511 | -3315 |
| 2021 % of 2020 | | 100% | 75% | 61% | 58% | 55% | 125% | 261% | 76% | 77% |

BRAW EZ Summary Form

Use this form to report your nest box results for the season.

DEADLINE: ASAP!

_____ 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

Or mail to: Data Summary Director , 974 Halcyon Days Ct., Oregon, WI. 53575

Couby Coordinator News

Gene Birr, CC Chair

Waupaca County, Craig and Sheila Beyer

After an awesome year for the bluebirds in 2020, we had high expectations for 2021. That all started in my workshop last winter where I built 90 new CEDAR houses. We installed 82 of these in prime locations though out our county. I am a little sad to report that a lot of these houses, and over a hundred that we already had out there, didn't have bluebirds in them!

Due to some health issues, I was not able to monitor them all properly, but suffice it to say, we are having an "off" year raising our beloved bluebirds! The boxes were mostly filled with swallows.

I think the late winter storms down south must have took a toll on the bluebirds. At least we have plenty of housing available to help re-build the

flock, so to speak.

We did get some awesome photos from cemeteries where we installed houses with crosses on them. Bluebirds love cemeteries! I've included some photos.

Okay, we hope other people had better luck this year than we have.

Happy trails.

Dane County, Patrick Ready

Indian Summer seemed to delay some of our bluebirds from heading south. Several reports of them around the county still. That's a hopeful sign that they are on the rebound. My trails like many did not do so well this season. Keeping my fingers crossed for a milder winter in the southern states.

I did get out and replace a few old boxes on one of my trails. Sandy Keyel, the monitor for the Sun Prairie Golf Course asked me to help her with a few box replacements. We met there and took care of it one afternoon. Over 10 years, some areas have gotten quite overgrown with



sapplings making it unsuitable for bluebirds. Sandy has been monitoring that trail for over 10 years and this was the first time she didn't have a single pair of bluebirds.

Are Skylights Effective – Yes or No?

Ever since their introduction to the United States in 1852, the house sparrow has been competing with bluebirds for cavity homes. Their aggressive and destructive treatment of bluebirds is well known to many in our organization. Several years ago, some BRAW members were reporting success using a skylight in the roof of a bluebird box to discourage occupancy by house sparrows. BRAW, with assistance from Ripon College, is conducting a study to determine the effectiveness of the skylight, hypothesizing that house sparrows will reject a brightly lit interior that bluebirds will readily accept. For this project, citizen scientists, we need your help.

We are looking for 100 locations that have had a history of sparrow problems, whether it is one box or several on your trail. We propose to put two identical bluebird boxes



at each of those sites, different only in that one of the boxes will have a skylight, the other one will not. The boxes will need to be monitored at least once a week and the occupancy noted. Observations will need to be reported to Ripon College, so use of a computer is required for participation

in this research, however, paper records will be accepted. At the end of the two-year study, participants will be able to keep the houses provided, in addition to the Noel guard intended for each box occupied by a bluebird.

If you have problems with house sparrows and are interested in helping with this research project, please send an email to skylight_project@ripon.edu. We will need your name, address, email address, county, and number of locations with a history of house sparrow problems. A database will be compiled, and more information will be emailed to those interested. All information we collect will be confidential, except for the results. We will attempt to get boxes to all participants by early spring. It is hoped that this passive method of house sparrow control will be the way our bluebirds and house sparrows can co-exist in Wisconsin, and beyond. This research is funded by the Carol Daniels Legacy Fund. Please respond with your interest in helping by Dec. 15th.

Nest in Peace Program

By Gene Kroupa

It's official, BRAW now has a cemetery nest box installation program called "Nest in Peace." Many of our members have long known that the open spaces of rural and small town graveyards are attractive to bluebirds if they can find a nest box waiting for them

Craig and Sheila Beyers, BRAW county coordinators for Waupaca County, have some tips for gaining permission, locating nest boxes and maintaining good relations with the caretakers.

"We've had great bluebird nesting success with our boxes located in cemeteries throughout the county," said Sheila.

"Sometimes we need to go through a cemetery board to get permission to put up boxes. Other times the caretaker just tells us where we can and can't put them," she said. Local funeral home directors can tell you whom to talk with to find out what is permissible.

Many cemeteries have a back area that is mowed for future expansion of grave sites. "These are great spots for nest boxes if they are far enough from brushy fence lines and trees that harbor wrens," noted Sheila.

Some cemeteries don't mind if nest boxes are placed by an existing grave if a relative doesn't object. "We try



Open back areas of cemeteries are good nest box sites. (Gene Kroupa)



Sheila and husband Craig Beyers. (Sheila Beyers)

to find really old single burial graves where it's not likely that any family is still in the area," advised Sheila.

All nest boxes should have some identification with a phone number so that if anyone objects, they know whom to contact. Adding the BRAW.org website information can help folks who might be interested in putting up nest boxes on their own property.

So far, Sheila and husband Craig haven't gotten any complaints from families or caretakers. Sometimes there are existing nest boxes that are in poor condition. "We try to find out who put them up before removing or replacing any old nest boxes," Sheila said.

When putting up nest boxes, it's a good idea to talk with the caretakers and see what they expect or recommend. "Most don't mind the extra trimming needed and really like seeing the bluebirds," Sheila noted. "And regular monitoring and checking cemetery nest boxes is just part of being a good neighbor and respecting the privileges granted." Some cemeteries have lanes going up to them that also can be suitable sites for putting up nest boxes. Getting

adjoining landowner permission is a good idea. All nest boxes should have predator guards when installed along fence lines.

Sheila and Craig make their own nest boxes, now numbering in excess of 200. But the real joy comes from seeing happy

bluebirds and their fledglings thriving in their peaceful surroundings. "We just love watching them," said Sheila.

BRAW has a limited number of Carol McDaniel Legacy nest boxes available for members who want to get started installing new or replacing old nest boxes in Wisconsin cemeteries.

Please send an email to Gene Kroupa at gkroupa@tds.net with your request. Be sure to include your phone number. If you have questions for Sheila, she can be reached at: huntsend@wolfnet.net.



Bluebirds love nest boxes built by Sheila & Craig Beyers. (Sheila Beyers)



McDaniel Legacy nest boxes are available from BRAW. (Pat Ready)

Renewed Efforts Needed

By Gene Kroupa

Preliminary 2021 numbers are in and they aren't pretty. Overall, Eastern Bluebird fledgings in Wisconsin are down 45% compared with 2020 figures. Likewise, Minnesota monitors reported a statewide decline of 47% this year.

Lack of breeding pairs was the main culprit. Loss of overwintering bluebirds due to severe weather in the South left some nest boxes empty this spring. But fledging success varied widely by area of both states with some monitors still reporting good results.

According to BRAW president Steve Sample, "It's time for us to double-down on recovery efforts to get those numbers back up in 2022." This means paying extra close attention to management techniques that optimize chances of bluebirds being successful in nesting efforts.

Our friends with the Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota offer some suggestions. "My main tip is to control pests, especially black gnats," says Carrol Johnson, of Northfield. He recommends affixing vanilla scent trees, like those for vehicles, in nest boxes.

Jean Olson, of Hinckley, strongly suggests moving unproductive nest boxes or those plagued by wrens and sparrows. "I will be moving

boxes again next spring, especially in park areas where brush is growing up near them," she noted.



Pat Laybourne

Providing adequate spacing between boxes so that there is less competition helps, too. "Keeping boxes far enough away from each other – at least 100 yards – encourages more use by bluebirds," says Annie Huidekoper, of St. Paul.

Pat Laybourn, of Bloomington, reminds us to

"consistently and intentionally clean out old nests as well as new ones from invasive species." Keep in mind that while sparrows are considered an invasive species, wrens and tree swallows are protected in Wisconsin.

"Be willing to give new boxes a year or two more to attract



Annie Huidekoper



Mike Fulford

bluebirds," says Mike Fulford, of Little Falls. "Even though new nest boxes aren't used this year, a good location should be given a chance to produce."

And don't forget the predator guards. That's the advice of David Schmidt, of Inver Grove Heights.



David Schmidt

"It's a shame to lose eggs or a clutch of chicks to raccoons because we didn't include a deep enough guard to thwart their long-reach." (See article by David Lucey about his improved Noel guard.)

Along this same vein, make sure nest boxes are 5' to 6' off the ground, facing east and mounted on poles that are not easily accessible or climbable by predators.

As Sample concluded: "We just have to do things better in 2022 to make up for declines in some areas this year. It all starts with regular monitoring of existing, new and relocated nest boxes."

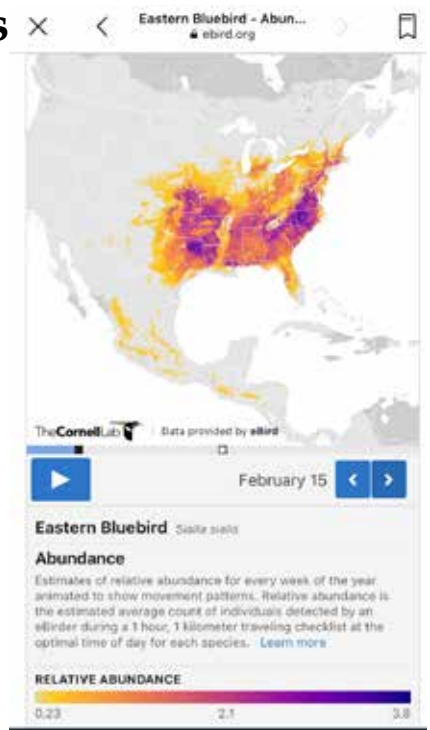
Winter Blues

By Pat Ready

So you have read about the low numbers of Eastern Bluebirds that returned to the midwest in spring. I decided to look into some data about where bluebirds go during winter. The best source is ebird, a program of The Cornell Lab. they compiled reports from individual birders they receive daily. The lab then creates animated maps showing long term info over the year. Here I captured the February 15 data showing relative abundance of bluebirds.

The darker purple area is where numbers were greater. As you can see the southern states that had the cold and snow during February had the most bluebird concentration. Reports from those areas said people were finding dead bluebirds in nest boxes starved or frozen to death.

The surviving bluebirds that did return and nested probably raised two broods. Recovery has begun!



BRAW Welcomes These Members

BRAW welcomes these members.

Gisela Kutzbach, Madison
 JoAnn Funk & Steve Marking, Minnesota
 Pauline Jauquet, River Falls
 Debi Smock, Indiana
 Patrick Hasburgh, Madison
 Kurt Staab, Medford
 Norbert Pritzl, Manitowoc
 William Rumpf, West Bend
 Kenneth Kurt, Mukwonago
 Jan Konkol, Amherst
 Oconto Sportsmans Club, Oconto
 Nolan Seifert, Stockholm
 Darrel Feucht, Monona
 Dave Maas, Menomonee Falls
 Tania Wadzinski, Manawa

DONATIONS

Andria Blattner, \$10
 Paul Stencel \$15 nest box
 Jim & Lori Livingston, \$10
 Bernie Hoefgen, \$25
 Donald Persons, \$95
 Karen & Dale Haymann, \$25
 Karen Haralson, \$100 nest box
 David & Sandra Fonger, \$10
 Don Pritzl, \$50
 Kenneth & Megan Karth, \$25
 Dave Maas, \$100 nest box
 Krista Goeller, \$75
 William Rumpf \$25
 Jill Villnow \$25 nest box
 Deborah Nicholson, \$45 nest box

The End of Raccoon Predation?

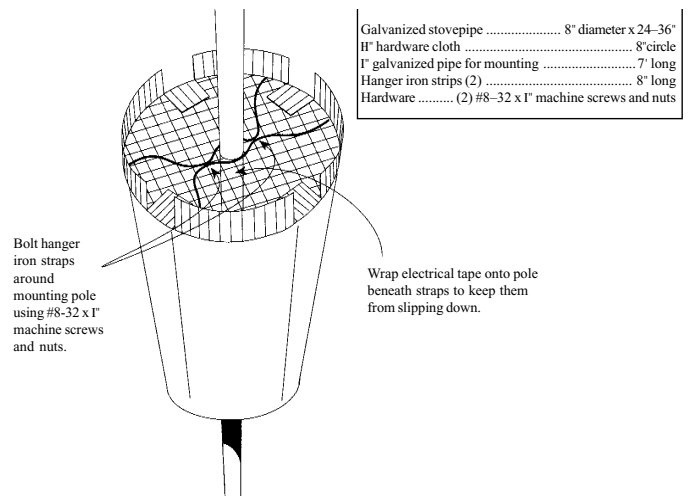
By Dave Lacey

Like many bluebirders, I have been frustrated by the loss of eggs and young to a marauding raccoon. Methods I have used to thwart them include greasing pvc tubing, wrapping steel fence posts with barbed wire, and installing Noel guards. Last summer I had three of my boxes with Noel guards raided by raccoons, as evidenced by the nesting material dragged out of the box. It appears that raccoons are more agile than previously thought, able to reach through a Noel guard and into the box, even with the outer edge of the guard presenting a perimeter of "pokere;" or wire strands bent outward to poke reaching limbs.

In an effort to prevent this from happening again, I devised a modified Noel guard that is different in three ways from the traditional design. The 3.5" x 5.5" opening of the traditional Noel guards is apparently too wide to prevent raccoons from reaching in. The depth of most Noel guards is 5.5", a distance that a raccoon's long, wiry arms are able to overcome. The guard pictured has an opening of 2.5" x 3", easy for a bluebird to navigate, but not raccoons. The modified guard is 6.5" deep, another feature that makes it more effective. To help overcome any reluctance by the bluebird to enter this tunnel, I cut and installed a strip of thin wood, allowing it to project from the entrance. This has served as a landing pad for the adults, and a launch pad for the fledglings. Since switching over to this style on several boxes, no raccoons have emptied a box of its contents. It may be necessary to remove this style of Noel guard at the end of the season and re-attach it after the first eggs get laid. I will attach this modified Noel guard to all my boxes next summer after bluebird eggs are laid in the hope that my raccoon problems are over. If you've been troubled with raccoon predation, this Noel guard may provide the protection your bluebirds need.



Make a Stove Pipe Coon Guard



Surprise Surprise - A Great Crested Flycatcher!!!

By Barbie Allen

This year, I continued to monitor 250 nest boxes in five counties in Northeast Wisconsin. Most monitors in Wisconsin have noted a dramatic decrease in bluebird numbers returning which can be attributed to the terrible ice storms and winter that occurred in Texas, Missouri and other southern states where our migrating bluebirds winter. Personally, I had exactly half the number of bluebird pairs returning and therefore it resulted in a 50% reduction in fledged bluebirds. 32% of the bluebird eggs laid in my nest boxes were non viable with 4 full clutches lost, two from the same pair. I also lost 3 entire clutches due to wren invasion. I had a record number of both tree swallows and black capped chickadees due to the reduced competition for nest boxes. Tree swallows' fledged totals increased 14.72% while black capped chickadees' totals increased 550% from last years' totals. Yes unbelievable 550% !!



creamy white to pinkish buff splotched with brown, purple or lavender. Flycatchers dwell mostly in the treetops and rarely are found on the ground. They favor natural cavities in dead trees but will use large abandoned woodpecker holes, nesting boxes and hollow posts. Their nests are built 2-70 feet off the ground. Nest formation is completed by both flycatchers and is made of grass, weeds, strips of bark, rootlets, feathers and other debris lined with finer material. They are also known to use pieces of snakeskin, weaving it into the nest.

The chicks were very cute and fuzzy. Both pair of flycatchers feed their chicks. They feed on a wide variety of insects especially wasps, bees, ants, caterpillars, beetles, and moths. They also eat a fair amount of fruit and berries. Flycatchers swoop after flying insects and may crash into foliage in pursuit of leaf-crawling prey. They are more easily heard than seen.

Nestlings rarely return to breed near where they were born. Once yearlings have chosen a breeding area, they often return to the same area year after year. Some pairs re-establish their bond from the previous season and may even reuse the same nesting cavity. They winter from southern Florida, and Mexico to Colombia leaving in September and returning to southern United States in mid March. Once you learn the flycatcher's distinctive call, you'll be able to spot them easier and can then start watching for the birds sitting on high, exposed perches and making fast flight after insect prey.

I have included pictures from my time observing the flycatchers in action. This rare nesting in one of my nest boxes and flycatcher sightings really made this year exciting. I can only hope they return again next year.



One of my boxes in Marinette County housed a pair of bluebirds for a first clutch last year and remained unused in early spring this year. To my surprise, I found eggs in this nest box on June 21st in a very unusual looking nest. The color of the eggs was also something I had never seen before. They were light colored with spotted brown streaks. When I finally spotted the bird, it was a fairly large bird about the size

of a robin (8+ inches) but more slender. It had rich reddish brown accents and a lemon yellow belly. The bird's crest was not especially prominent and its tail was fairly long. The black bill was straight and fairly wide with the base a pale color. There was not much difference between adult males and females, although the male's coloring was a little more vibrant. This nest box was at the edge of a yard where deciduous woodlands begin. I listened to its call and song and used my cellphone and the Merlin Bird ID app to figure out it was a great crested flycatcher. The call was very distinctive, an emphatic rising whistle. This was only the second flycatcher I have had nest in a box in all the years that I have been monitoring bluebirds. Last time it was about ten years ago at a cousin's cottage about seven miles from where this one nested. It was in a very high nest box and I only saw the adult bird, never viewing the eggs or chicks.

The great crested flycatcher seemed to be a rather shy bird so to get pictures I had to stay parked in my car and use the call on the Merlin app to get the bird to come in for a photo. Flycatchers usually lay 4-8 eggs, which are 0.6-0.7 inches in size. My clutch was five eggs. Both pair of flycatchers build the nest. Eggs are incubated for 13-15 days with fledgling nesting period 13-15 days. The eggs are

BRAW Photo Contest Honorable Mention

There were over 30 entries in the contest this year. It was very difficult for the judges to decide. These here were not winners but definitely worth mentioning.



Steve Lang, Madison, WI

**Plan to enter
The 2022
Photo Contest!**



Lynn Dodge, Phillips, WI



Mary Ann Mathwich, Rockton, IL

Mounting a pole in hard ground.

By Pat Ready

During long dry spells the ground can get to be rock hard and it can be difficult to drive a box pole in. (1) I use a 3 foot section of conduit with one end flattened. (2) Using a sledge hammer I pound it into the ground 12-15". Then I wiggle it free. (3) I place my longer pole into the hole and then use the pole driver to finish setting it into the ground. If the ground is really hard you can pour water into the hole and wait 10 minutes, then set the pole.



Membership Renewal Information

By Valerie Van Winkle, Membership Services

If the address label of your *Wisconsin Bluebird* newsletter reads Winter 2021 next to your name, then your membership expires this month and you need to renew immediately. If you are an online member, you won't see this clue so please consider marking the expiration date on your calendar when you sign up. We don't want you to miss a single newsletter!

The next issue of the *Wisconsin Bluebird* goes into production in February and will be mailed in March. Memberships received after February 15 may not be processed in time to receive the Spring newsletter. Consider an extended or one-time \$300 Life Membership.

Please fill out the membership renewal form on this page and send it with your check or money order to: **BRAW, Inc., Valerie Van Winkle, PO Box 628492, Middleton, WI 53562**

You can also renew your membership at www.braw.org and use PayPal or a credit card.

BRAW, Inc. Membership and

Wisconsin Bluebird Subscription

Yes! I would like to join or renew as a member with the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (BRAW) and receive its quarterly newsletter *Wisconsin Bluebird*. Enclosed is my check/money order (do not send cash) made out to BRAW, Inc. for the following:

- \$10 Gift Annual Membership (Online subscription)
- \$15 Student/Teacher Annual Membership (Online subscription)
- \$20 Online Annual Membership
- \$40 Extended Online Annual Membership for 2 years
- \$60 Extended Online Annual Membership for 3 years
- \$25 Individual or Family Annual Membership (Printed copy mailed)
- \$75 Extended Individual or Family Annual Membership for 3 years (Printed copy mailed)
- \$100 Corporate Annual Membership
- \$300 Life Membership

**A BRAW
membership makes
a great Anytime gift!**
\$10 includes Online Newsletter
Give the gift of Bluebirds!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

*Email Address: _____

Telephone: () _____

County of residence: _____

*BRAW sends out nest box deal promotions and "time to renew" reminders via email.

Donation (optional)

\$15 to nest box construction/post & predator guard

\$100 for nest box trail

\$_____ for bluebird research

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 membership

This is a GIFT membership

Enclosed please find my check \$ _____

Mail this membership request to:

BRAW, Inc.
Valerie Van Winkle
PO Box 628492
Middleton, WI 53562

We do not share or sell BRAW's membership list.

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie at 847-302-5684 or ripvws@gmail.com.

BRAW ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS

President Steve Sample, 422 Shepard Ter., Madison, WI 53705 • 708/606-8070 • ssample@gmail.com (term to 12/22)

Secretary Gene Kroupa, 1010 Tumalo Trail, Madison, WI 53711 • 608/238-3571 • gkroupa@tds.net (term to 12/22)

Treasurer Dan Schroeder, N4028 Morgan Drive, Waupaca, WI 54981 • 920-475-8525 • brdanjoe@gmail.com (term to 12/22)

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

Director Dave Lucey, Cross Plains, WI • 53528 • dklucy@chorus.net (term to 12/22)

Director Mary Sobol, 5205 Broadhead St., McFarland WI 53558 • 608-838-6962 (H) 608-338-8529 (cell) msobolontime@gmail.com (term to 12/22)

Director Mike Crawford, 817 5th St. Waunakee, WI 535397 • 608-213-1806 • mike@marieandmike.com (term to 2021)

Director Patrick Ready, (Past President) 815 Sky Ridge Dr., Madison, WI 53719 • 608/239-0791 • birdsready@gmail.com (term to 12/21)

Director Fred Craig, 3308 Nathan Lane, Holmen WI 54636 • 608/783-2225 266marycraig@gmail.com (term to 12/23)

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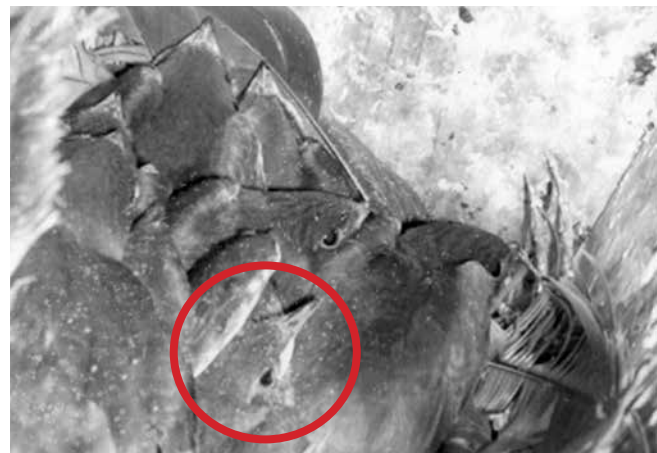
Student and Youth Outreach Committee: Positions open to volunteers

Website: Andy Garcia Rivera, agarciarivera@gmail.com

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In the last issue I had this photo of a House Wren chick that hatched in a Tree Swallow nest on my trail at Lake Kegonsa State Park several years ago. Were you able to find it in my photo? The red circle is the wren chick. Note the longer beak. The wren developed along with its nest mates and as far as I know it fledged from the nest box. I have no idea if it survived after fledging. I believe it would head for the bushes or thick cover once out of the box. The Tree Swallow chicks would fly off and probably land on wires or branches waiting to be fed by the adult swallows. Would the swallows find the wren and feed it? Good question?



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The mission and purpose of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc. is to broaden the base of state residents to help Eastern Bluebirds and native cavity nesters by erecting, maintaining and monitoring nest boxes.

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

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You can still send in Your 2021 Data

See page 3

Check the address label. If it says "Winter 2021",
then you need to RENEW membership now.



BRAW 2021 Photo Contest 2nd Place

Joan Eckhardt
Callawassie Island, SC



BRAW 2021 Photo Contest 3rd Place

Hubert Steve Cole
Menomonie, WI

Thanks to Tim and the crew at
The Camera Company in Madison
for judging the photos.

