

Winter 2019  
Vol. 34, No. 4



# 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.

## Annual Convention Report

See Page 2



### *Inside this issue:*

President's Message - 2

Convention Report - 2

Survival of the Fittest - 4

Reasons to Help Bluebirds - 5

BRAW EZ Form - 6

Skylight Box Study - 6

100 Years Ago - 7

Nest Box Plans - 8 & 9

Membership Form - 10

NABS Convention - 11

BRAW Online Store - 12

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*Is it time to renew your membership? See page 10.*

## A Word from the Prez

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Convention back in September. I believe we had just over 50 come to hear the presentations and socialize with other members. The Silent Auction was a big success again. Lots of very nice items were donated by members. I'm already starting to plan the convention for next year and will be trying to have it at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay. A fall date will be determined before the next issue of the WB.

As of the last board meeting we are still way under for 2019 season data reports. Steve Falon is more than willing to take late reports to get our bluebird production numbers up for the season. See page 6 for the EZ Report Form and more info. The Sping WB will have the final report.

Is this your last issue of the *Wisconsin Bluebird*? It is if the mailing label has "WINTER-19" on it. Page 10 has all



the info you need to renew your membership or you can go to [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org) and renew online. *One very irritating thing that was brought to my attention this fall is some people that are renewing are using old newsletter renewal forms. They are sending in less money for what a membership cost AND they are mailing it to Sue Schultz who hasn't been our membership chair for several years now!* She then has to find out who to forward it to and that's definitely not fair to her. We have had 2 membership chairs since she resigned! So to anyone renewing their membership, please use the form in this issue and mail payment to Mike Ray - our current membership chair.

It's the down season now when our bluebirds have gone south. Now may be the time to build a new nest box or two. I put two box plans in the issue for those inclined to get in their workshop during these cold days of winter. Then Think Spring!

**Patrick Ready**  
**BRAW President**

## BRAW Annual Convention a Big Success!

**Claire Romanek, Secretary**

The 33rd annual meeting of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin was held at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve in La Farge on September 14, 2019. A total of 49 bluebird fans and various wildlife specialists were in attendance on a beautiful late summer day.

President Pat Ready welcomed participants and opened the convention at 9:01 AM. Pat remarked that there were reports that the black flies were bad this season. There are also reports that insect populations are dropping and the effect this may be having on Bluebird populations is hard to define.

He thanked Rita Gundry who supplied the treats and coffee for the convention and everyone who donated to the silent auction.

Pat then introduced **Dan Schroeder**, BRAW Treasurer, who gave us the Treasurer's report. Dan presented a chart with a 13-year-history, from 2007-2019, of our revenue vs. expenses. Our expenses are pretty steady but our revenue is gradually declining. The projections show us operating at a loss, primarily due to declining membership. Revenue sources have remained steady for other categories but memberships



have declined from 70-75% of revenue down to the current 45%.

Ready then proceeded to the ninth annual awards presentation.

**Carol McDaniel**, who was not able to attend, was presented with an **Emeritus Award**. Her daughter Christine accepted the award for her. Pat Ready read an email from Carol and mentioned that she was the one who signed him up as a member back in 2002. Carol is a past BRAW president, active in the Lafayette County Bluebird Society and the current County Coordinator Chairperson.

There were two **Merit Awards** given, one to **Claire Romanak** who has been a board member since 2008, is the current board Secretary and monitors a bluebird trail in her area. The other award went to **Rick Fare**, who could not be present. Rick is very active in the Hoy Audubon Club in Racine, organizing bluebird trails, supplying nest boxes and collecting data.

The **Joe O'Halloran Award** went to **Mike Helgren**, a past board member and Treasurer. Mike began putting up nest boxes in the 1980's in Monroe

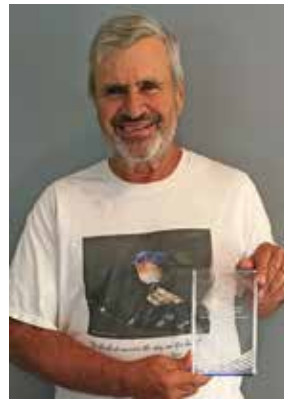
County, is a long time BRAW member and has also been essential to BRAW's Garden Expo participation.

The **County Coordinator of the Year Award** went to **Pat Ready** and was given by Steve Sample, BRAW Vice President. When Carol McDaniel, County Coordinator Chair, was asked whom she would recommend for this award, she stated that she could not think of a better person than Pat. He recruits members, does workshops, gives talks at Wild Birds Unlimited, Schlitz Audubon & Garden Expo, leads field trips and monitors several trails. He has been on the board since 2006 and a County Coordinator since 2007 as well as the *Wisconsin Bluebird* editor.

**Steve Fallon** gave the next presentation, the 2018 vs 2017 Data Summary. The bluebird numbers were all down with Tree Swallows and Wrens remaining steady. Eastern Bluebirds occupied less boxes, fledged less chicks and less chicks per box than in 2017. This decline was seen statewide. The 2019 data are not published yet but some of the comments he is seeing are about the cold and wet spring along with late snowstorms, heavy Tree Swallow competition and problems with House Wrens, black flies and ants. In some areas the bluebirds did not start nesting until May and only had one brood. This is the third year in a row that we have had a late spring.

Pat then introduced our first speaker, **Scott Walker** with his Grouse in the





Claire Romanak, Carol McDaniel (daughter Christine), Mike Helgren, Rick Fare and Pat Ready were this year's BRAW Award winners.

Mist program. Scott is currently a Large Carnivore Specialist with the DNR but has worked with grouse while teaching at the university in the past. Grouse used to be common in the driftless area 30-40 years ago but the population has steadily declined. Grouse are a young forest obligate species. They need dense young forests to survive. The best Ruffed Grouse population in the driftless area was in the 1980's but as the forests have matured their numbers have fallen off. Recommended shrubs to plant for grouse include sumac, prickly ash and hazelnuts. It would also be helpful to reduce the grouse season length and bag limits in Southern WI, but there is resistance to that approach. The grouse population in the northern part of the state is stable.

Pat then introduced the next speaker from the Wisconsin Chimney Swift Working Group, **Sandy Schwab**. Sandy is not only involved with Chimney Swifts but monitors a Bluebird trail at a golf course as well. Chimney Swifts are huge insectivores who depend on human structures for nesting and roosting. Chimney Swifts are cavity nesters and while

they will nest in hollow trees, most nest in chimneys. Wisconsin Chimney Swift Working Group's mission is to keep Swifts in Wisconsin by educating the public about their ecology and aesthetic value. They support saving chimneys known to be used by swifts, work with chimney sweeps and masons, engage new partners and have produced a 2-page flyer for homeowners. Swift Night Out is a continent-wide event to count swifts entering their roosts during migration. They will migrate during the day and roost at night in chimneys.

We adjourned at noon for a lunch. The silent auction was closed promptly at 1:00 PM and the winning bidders were able to claim their items.

President Pat Ready then introduced the next program, Falconry. **Abbie and Joe Kumrie** run River Valley Raptors along with their intern **Fernanda**. Joe works for the DNR and this is a non-profit side business for them.

Their presentation included live birds, the first being a Merlin named Rocket. Merlins are forest birds, known in the past as Queen's birds. Falconry lost out to gunpowder and is now a hobby sport. It has been in

the US since the 1940's and there are currently 100-120 licensed falconers in Wisconsin. The next bird we saw was a female Red-tailed Hawk named Danny. She will be able to go back to the wild at some point. She hunts squirrels, cottontails, jack rabbits and pheasant. Most of what they catch is used to feed the birds in their care.

The next bird was Jenny, a Kestrel. Kestrels eat large insects, sparrows and voles. They are used by vineyards to chase grape eaters away and for House Sparrow and Starling control.

Abbie and Joe partner with the Coulee Region Humane Society and will take injured birds to rehab in one of their flight cages.

The last bird introduced to us was a Gyrfalcon that they have only had for 3 weeks and is not named yet. They are an Arctic species and can fly very fast.

There are falconry meets held with sky trials, speed trials and agility trials. In Wisconsin they can hunt for rabbit and squirrel year-round but they do not hunt them in summer.

"Ask the Bluebird Experts" panel discussion followed. The participants were **Pat Ready, Fred Craig, Steve Sample and Gene Birr**. **Gene Birr**



introduced the "Skylight" box as a means of deterring House Sparrows.

This box has an open top to let light into the box, covered with clear plexiglass. He has had good luck with the 6 boxes he has and feels it is 90-95% effective. He also uses the Noel guards for raccoons.

Gene Birr commented that he had an ant problem and tried cinnamon under the nest and around the post. When he checked the next week the ants were gone and the nestlings were healthy. Pat Ready had heard of using bay leaves but that it hadn't seemed to work for him. A member commented that she used at least one tablespoon of cinnamon under the nest to be effective. Steve Sample commented that he had success with Permethrin sprayed under the box. A member questioned if anyone used a bead of tanglefoot to keep ants from the boxes. Steve cautioned that it should be put just underneath the box. A member commented that he had 50 boxes with the plexiglass tops for 2 years and is very happy with them, no sparrow predation. A member asked about using diatomaceous earth for

ants and Pat said that might work but was very messy. Fred Craig advised that there are more than one type of Permethrin concentrations sold and to be careful and not overspray it. He also advises keeping the vegetation away from the base of the post to deter ants.

A member questioned how close to a tree could you put a nest box and have it attract bluebirds. Pat Ready stated that some say the best location is in a large tree's dripline but the more open the better. A member stated that boxes in a prairie setting did better once it was mowed around the boxes and questioned if it was a good idea to keep it mowed. Others commented that in their experience mowing did help. Sometimes people do not like having to mow around boxes, some have had boxes that were knocked down by mowers.



A few members reported that they had bluebird chicks that were ready to fledge and then died. Pat Ready wondered if black flies were to blame. Another member questioned if boxes should be cleaned out in winter. Pat said it was a good idea if you can, sometimes a woodpecker or chickadee will use the box for roosting.

The convention ended by 3 PM and many attendees made favorable comments for the programs and said they enjoyed the social time during the lunch break.

## The Year of Nest Box Stealing and Survival of the Fittest in Northeastern Wisconsin

by Barbie Allen

As a veteran nest box monitor, I really realize the value of weekly monitoring and good record keeping. Everyone knows there is competition for nest boxes, but until this year I never realized how much stealing of nest boxes does occur. I monitor

250 nest boxes in five counties in Northeast Wisconsin, checking the boxes weekly.

This year I have been amazed at what I saw from week to week. So many of the nest boxes had different species of birds with either nests and egg removal or nest stealing occurring. In mid May, I was very happy to see a bluebird nest with 1 egg. When I returned the following week, the bluebird's egg was gone and there were 3 tree swallow eggs in the nest. The following week, the tree

swallow's eggs and nest were gone and were replaced by sticks from an evicting wren.

In Brown County where we have an extensive House Sparrow problem, the house sparrows are always trying to evict any other bird often killing the adult bird, eggs, and chicks. Weekly monitoring and active trapping does keep sparrows to a minimum. To date, no House Sparrow has successfully fledged any chicks on my trails but this has only happened due to close weekly monitoring. The Black-capped





Chickadee seems to have the hardest time retaining a nest box. Even using hole reducers, the wrens get in and take over many nest boxes. I had 8 Black-capped Chickadee nests but only 5 nests fledged chicks.

Parkway Golf Course in Oconto County had wet cold conditions right before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July that didn't affect the bluebird chicks who were further along in development, but tree swallow chicks had a drastic mortality rate. I lost 17 tree swallow chicks in 4 nest boxes. After cleaning out the nests and dead chicks, three pair of tree swallows had a successful second brood that is something you rarely see with tree swallows. Oconto County also had a tornado in July with many downed trees. Unfortunately I had 4 bluebird chicks that perished in the storm near White Potato Lake.

My bluebird numbers were a little down this year especially my second batch numbers. Again at Parkway Golf in Oconto County after a first brood fledged, the bluebirds' nest box was taken over by a wren. The bluebird

tried to evict the wren and actually used the wren's stick and small cup nest and started a second brood. (Photo 1-3). Eventually the wrens won out evicting the bluebirds and destroying the bluebird's eggs. I normally have 1-2 pair of wrens at Parkway Golf but this year it seemed like so many more as the results were devastating to the bluebirds. Twelve bluebirds' nests were taken over by wrens destroying 15 bluebird eggs in July. Only 3 of the 10 pair of bluebirds had successful second broods. I also experienced the same wren problems at the Woods Golf Course in Brown County where I had no successful second broods after a record number of first brood bluebirds.

As a bluebird monitor a bad year does occur, but we still have to look at the positive. I had 243 bluebirds fledge and 516 tree swallows and I was able to track so much invaluable information. We all need to continue our efforts and try to recruit our successors to ensure bluebirds' continued survival. Here's to 2020!

## BRAW Welcomes These Members

- \* Bernie Hoefgen - Eau Claire
- \* Bill LeClaire - Onalaska
- \* Bruce Brewer - Sparta
- \* Camilla Jost - Muskego
- \* Charles H Lautermilch - Warrens
- \* David & Sandra Fonger - Onalaska
- \* Jon & Marcia Beckman - Green Bay
- \* Karen Haralson - Marshfield
- \* Kristin Perlberg - Stoughton
- \* Michael Hilger - Altoona
- \* Patrick Gorski - Madison
- \* Renee Pierce - Sauk City
- \* Ruth Smith - Madison
- \* Stanley King - River Falls

### Donations:

- \* Jerone & Sharon Woelfel - Chilton
- \* Karen Schauer - Eau Claire
- \* \$1,000 The Harold Ramon Cram, Jr. Bluebird Restoration Fund of the Natural Resource Foundation of Wisconsin

## Reasons to Help Bluebirds

By Gene Kroupa, BRAW Director

A farmer friend posed a simple question: Why should I put up boxes for bluebirds? For a split second I was stumped. Then I muttered something in response that should have been a lot better.

This failure prompted me to poll my fellow BRAW board of directors for help.

They suggested explaining that:

1. Without our help bluebirds and other cavity nesters will likely disappear. Back in 1964 there were only an estimated 600 nesting bluebird pairs in the state.
2. By erecting nest boxes, we are simply replacing habitat humans destroy. Nest boxes are a visible symbol of our willingness to save bluebirds.
3. Bluebirds are native to our environment but face a constant challenge from house sparrows and starlings for nesting cavities. Proper placement of nest boxes and regular monitoring help control competition from these invasive species.
4. As a true American original, this handsome bird sustains itself by eating a prodigious amount of insects. Two-thirds of a bluebird's diet is made up of insects: mainly crickets, beetles, grasshoppers, spiders, meal worms and caterpillars.
5. Watching their displays and listening to their sweet calls brings a smile to our face and a feeling of doing something good. There is no greater satisfaction than that derived from watching a pair of bluebirds settle in a nest box, deposit and incubate eggs, tirelessly feed their chicks, and then coax the fledglings to leave the nest.
- 6.

Now, I know what to say when asked why we should help bluebirds. And I'll be sure to add that BRAW members' 8,000 nest boxes annually produce nearly 20,000 bluebird fledglings. What a turnaround since those dire days of the 1960's.



### BRAW Joins 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.

# Please Send in Your 2019 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 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.

**DEADLINE: Was September 30 but you can still send in your data!**

Below is the EZ Form. It's also available as a download on the website - [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org). **You can also fill in the form (2019 EZ 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](mailto:wisconsinbluebirds@gmail.com)

or use the 2019 EZ Form on our website: [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org)

## BRAW EZ Summary Form

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

**DEADLINE DECEMBER 30, 2019**

_____ 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](mailto:wisconsinbluebirds@gmail.com)

Thank You!

## House Sparrows and Skylight Boxes: Results of ALS Study

By Kent Hall, Aldo Leopold Society

For the 2019 season, Bob Lane built 25 Skylight boxes to test their effectiveness for prevention of House Sparrow (HOSP) nesting. Twenty-one of these boxes were placed on 11 bluebird routes. All boxes replaced boxes with nesting HOSP's in them. Seven of these boxes had no new nesting attempts in them. Eight boxes produced 31 Tree Swallows (TRES's) and 6 boxes produced 32 Eastern Bluebirds (EABL's). Only two boxes had HOSP's attempt to nest in Skylight boxes after they replaced HOSP-infested boxes. All boxes were side-opening from the top and were drilled so the top gaped by at least 1/4" to prevent the nest box from over-heating and killing chicks. No chicks died in the 14 occupied boxes.

### Conclusions:

These boxes did an excellent job of excluding HOSP's

1-The 7 boxes (33%) that lacked any songbird nesting is much higher than is typical with normal boxes without Skylights. Out of over 1,000 non-Skylight boxes typically on the Audubon Bluebird Trail, only 3 or 4 lack any nesting bird species. The 2019 season was an unusual one, but out of my 148 boxes, none lacked any songbirds nesting in them. The implication is that Skylight boxes exclude many potentially nesting songbirds.

2-Over half of the Skylight boxes were occupied by Tree Swallows while my 148 boxes had the majority occupied by EABL's. Although TRES's were more common nesters in 2019 than in any previous year in the last 17, the question arises whether the Skylight box is as attractive to EABL's as it is to TRES's.

3-I have had 10 years of experience with Van Ert traps and prefer them to the Skylight box. They are more convenient, have a better EABL occupancy after trapping HOSP's and don't require the movement of boxes from one site to another in any given year to accommodate the new locations of HOSP's.

# One Hundred Years

## Ago...

By Bob Tamm

I am spending a few days of relaxation at our family's retreat in Vernon County. And one of my favorite things to do while up here in the middle of nowhere is to grab a cup of coffee and a good book (usually from my library of Nature books dating back to the mid-1800s to early 1900s) and set myself down near a window to watch birds at my feeders while perusing.

Per chance, the first book I selected was a real classic – Neltje Blanchan's "BIRDS WORTH KNOWING" from the Little Nature Library. Coincidentally, my copy was published exactly 100 years ago, in 1919. It is not a particularly rare old book, but a wonderful example of early nature books that for the most part were, and are, very useful in increasing one's knowledge of our avian friends, especially for beginners. I admit that what first attracted me to this book many decades ago was the front cover, which has a beautiful painting of a pair of bluebirds depicted on it. Inside, many birds are accurately portrayed and described in detail.

But not all....

I find it interesting that in the animal world, predators are not only accepted, but admired. Lions and tigers, cheetahs and leopards, crocodiles and alligators – they all eat



their own kind - and we know this is an important part of a healthy natural order. In the water, no different. No one hates *Esox Lucius* or *Esox Masquinongy* – the Northern Pike or Muskellunge - because they dine on other fish. Rather, we tend to glorify their status at the top of the food chain.

In the Avian world, however, views were sometimes vastly different – at least they were a century ago! Back then, to be sure, all the aforementioned predators were as highly praised as they are now – and rightly so. But if you happened to be a predatory bird back then, you were condemned – almost literally – to a death sentence.

With that in mind, I give you a few paragraphs from this well-known early Nature Book.... From page 194, the chapter entitled "Night and Day Hunters".

*"Instead of perching on lookouts, as the red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks do, Cooper's hawk, the big blue darter, and the smaller sharp-shinned hawk, or little blue darter, dash after their victims on the wing, chasing them across open stretches where such swift, dexterous, dodging flyers are sure to overtake them. Or they will flash out of a clear sky like feathered lightning and boldly strike a chicken, though it be pecking corn near a farmer's feet. These two marauders and the big slate-colored goshawk, also called the blue hen hawk, stab their cruel talons through the vitals of poultry, song and game birds, more than anyone would care to read about. These three villains too often escape the charge of shot they so richly deserve.*

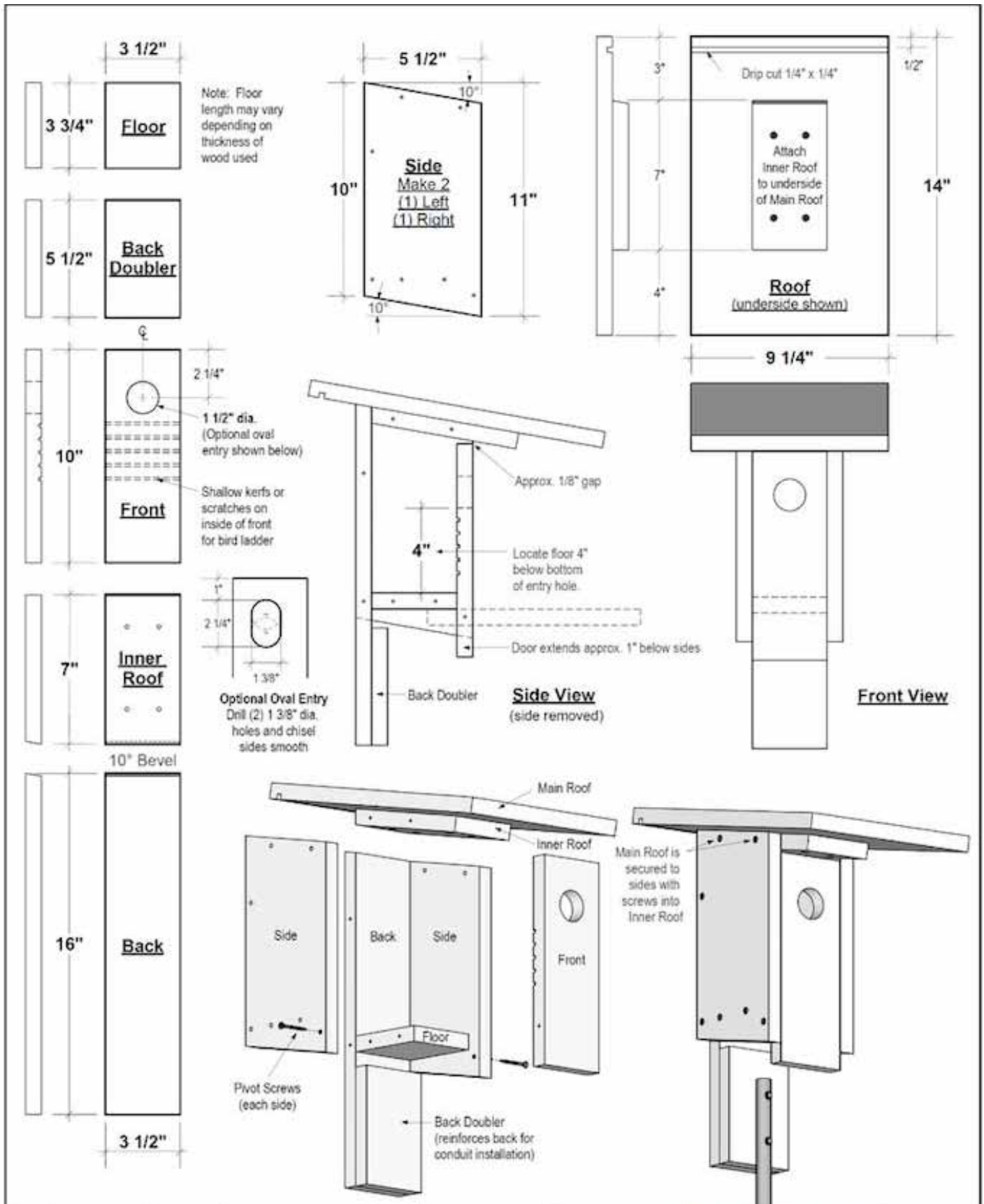
*"The female Cooper's Hawk is about nineteen inches long and her mate a bit smaller, but not nearly so small as the sharp-shinned hawk, only a foot or so in length, but which it closely resembles in plumage and villainy. Cooper's Hawks have rounded tails with whitish tips – the Sharp-Shinned, a square tail. Both species have white throats with dark streaks. "Let the guns be turned toward these bloodthirsty, audacious miscreants, and away from the red-tailed and red-shouldered species, beneficent, majestic kings of the air."*

So there you have it. A world-renowned ornithologist from a century ago with his views on three native predatory birds. Not always were they the good ol days!



## Wanted: Secretary for BRAW

With the recent resignation of Claire Romanek from the board of directors, we are in need of a secretary to take minutes for our board meetings. Someone with an acute ability to listen and then write down what was said during meeting discussions is desired. The board meets four times per year and is currently holding meetings at the Pioneer Inn located in Westfield, a central location on I-39. We meet the first Saturday in March, June, September and November. Meeting dates may be adjusted as needed. The September meeting is often the annual meeting and is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of the month. Please contact me if interested. Email: [birdsready@gmail.com](mailto:birdsready@gmail.com) or Ph: 608-239-0791.



Quan	Material / Size	Component
44"	1 x 4 (3/4" x 3 1/2")	Front, Back, Floor, Inner Roof, Back Doubler
23"	1 x 6 (3/4" x 5 1/2")	Sides
14"	1 x 10 (3/4" x 9 1/4")	Roof

**The Simple Nestbox**  
 Official nestbox of the Lafayette County Bluebird Society, Wisconsin  
 designed by: Joe O'Halloran

Drawn by: Fred Stille, Sr.    Version 1.1, August 1, 2013    Page 1 of 1  
 plan by Nestboxbuilder.com    Copyright © 2013 All rights reserved



# 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

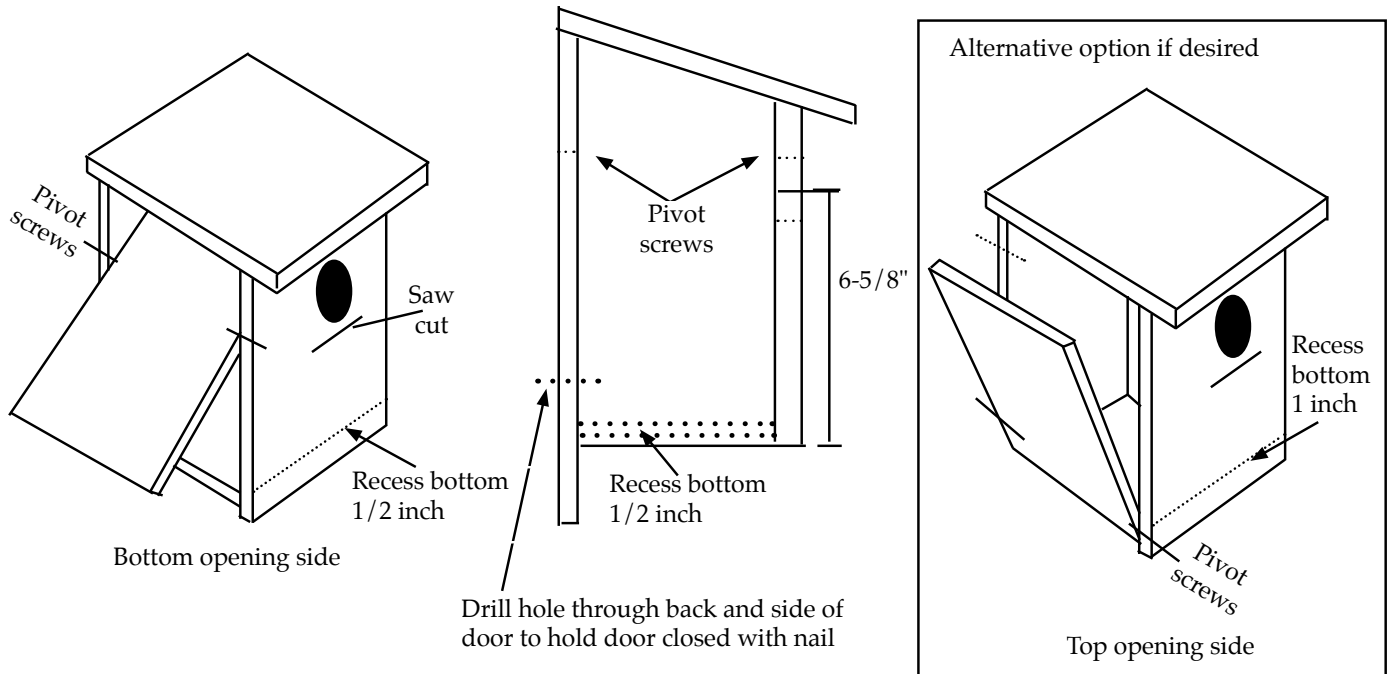
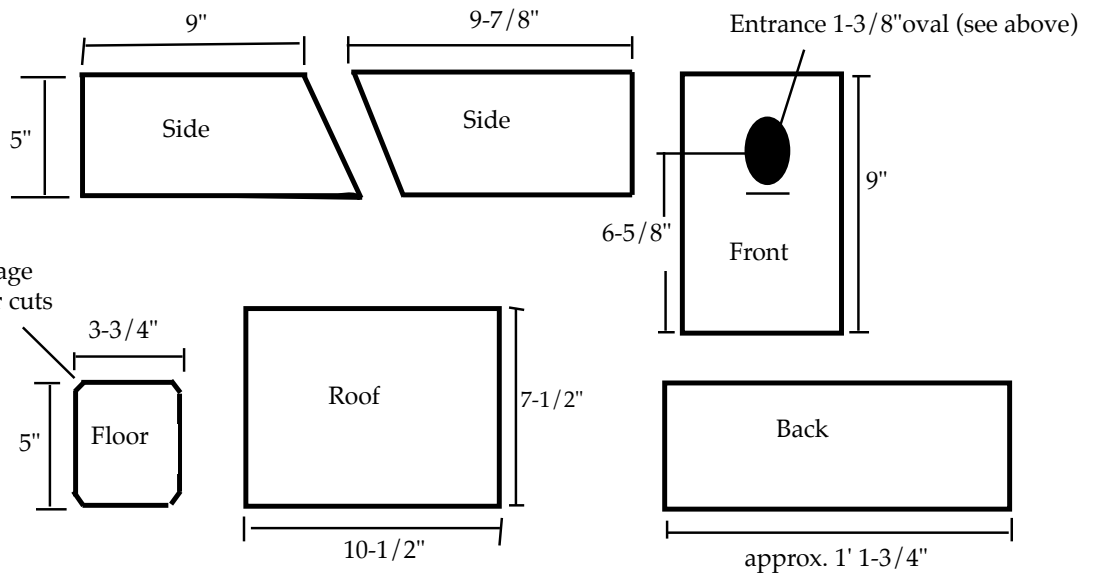
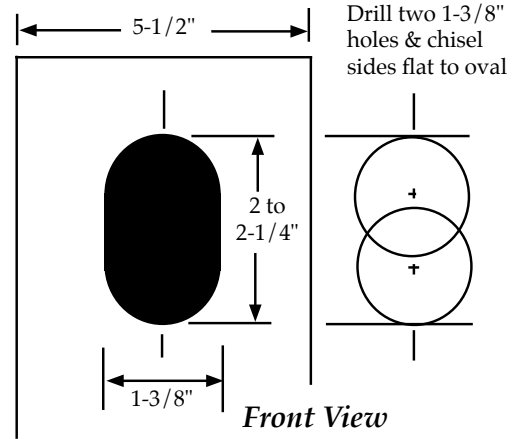
Roof is 7-1/2" wide x 10-1/2" long

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



# Membership Renewal Information

By Mike Ray, Membership Services

It may be time to renew your annual membership to the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW), so that we can update our mailing list with the least cost and effort.

Look at the address label on your newsletter. The number group following your name indicates the month and year of expiration. If your label reads Winter 19 your membership will expire with this issue.

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

Fill out the membership renewal form below and send it with your check or money order to **BRAW Membership, c/o Mike Ray, PO Box 628492, Middleton, WI 53562**

If we do not receive your renewal when due, your membership will begin with the next issue after payment is received. *We will no longer mail out back issues and back date memberships.*

The basic \$25 Individual / Family membership covers the

cost of printing and mailing the quarterly *Wisconsin Bluebird* newsletter.

The next issue of the *Wisconsin Bluebird* goes into production in February and is mailed to arrive the first week in March. Memberships received after February 24th may not be processed in time to receive the Spring newsletter. Consider a one time \$300 Life Membership in BRAW. **Life members do not have to renew.**

## Consider the Special \$10 Gift Membership (Online only)

Please complete the membership renewal form provided here and return it to BRAW as soon as possible. **Now you can renew your membership at [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org) and use PayPal or a credit card and you don't need to mail anything in.**

**All Renewals/New Memberships received now will begin with the Spring issue.**

New members can use the form below to join BRAW.



## Wisconsin Bluebird Subscription and BRAW, Inc. Membership

**Yes! I would like to renew/join 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:

\$10 Gift Membership (Online only-requires email)

\$15 Student (email link - online)

**\$20 Online paperless issue via email link -NEW!**

\$25 Individual or Family Annual (hard copy mailed)

\$100 Corporate Annual

\$300 Life Membership       Perpetual Fund

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

County of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$100 for nest box trail

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for educational research (Master's thesis)

In addition to my membership contribution, I wish to contribute: \$\_\_\_\_\_

*(Contributions to BRAW are tax deductible)*

Check appropriate boxes:

This is a renewal.

This is a new subscription/membership

This is a GIFT subscription.

Enclosed please find my check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this membership/subscription request to:

BRAW, Inc.

**Mike Ray**

PO Box 628492

Middleton, WI 53562

**Please note: This form appears in this newsletter as a convenience for all who wish to obtain membership.**

Memberships expire as noted on your mailing label and should be renewed immediately to ensure continued access to newsletters. **If you renew or join during the year you will be on a quarterly membership basis and *will not* receive back issues of *Wisconsin Bluebird*.**

## BRAW ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS

**President Patrick Ready**, 815 Sky Ridge DR., Madison, WI 53719 • 608/239-0791 • birdsready@gmail.com (term to 12/22)

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

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

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**2020 NABS CONFERENCE**  
HOSTED BY BLUEBIRDS ACROSS NEBRASKA  
**MARCH 11-15**  
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NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS	RAFFLE, LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS



Years ago I attended the NABS Convention in Kearney Nebraska and I will never forget what a great time it was. **Bluebirds Over Nebraska** host the event and they go all out to make it a great weekend.

Excellent speakers on a wide variety of topics, workshops and field trips to see the migration of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese. I took so many photos that weekend I think I'm still going through them!

I encourage anyone interested in bluebirds to attend and meet the folks of **Bluebirds Over Nebraska**. More information at [www.nabluebirdsociety.org](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org)

- The WB Editor

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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.



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