

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail

2015 Project Report

SUMMARY



This project is a cooperative effort involving Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve management, Madison Audubon Bird Buddies and UW student volunteers. This is part of city wide Madison Bird City goals coordinated with a number of FUN – Friends of Urban Nature group initiatives. The project started in 2014 and will be renewed in 2016 for two more years.

We have had Bluebird nesting success as reported below. This project has also provided value as Nature Education and Nature Recreation for Sunday Bird and Nature Walks, UW Nelson Institute Capstone birding classes and other Ornithology classes, and Preserve visitors.

PURPOSE

Bluebirds suffered major population declines with loss of native forests. These losses have been reversed with the help of **Bluebird Restoration of Wisconsin (BRAW)**. The organization developed successful Bluebird box designs, locations, and predator control. These Bluebird boxes have benefited Wisconsin's **Eastern Bluebird** population and given enjoyment to thousands of people. Although Bluebirds are the target bird for these boxes, other cavity nesting song birds in the Biocore Prairie also benefit from them, including **Tree Swallows, House Wrens, Black-capped Chickadees.**

COMPONENTS

The Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail consists of 14 Bluebird Boxes mounted on predator resistant steel poles around the Biocore Prairie and bordering the Community Gardens. The boxes are located near walking paths as shown on the map (see below in this document). They are easy to monitor and maintain.

The BRAW Bluebird Restoration of Wisconsin design Bluebird boxes are luxury boxes, considering that the cedar wood used for building them is more than 100 years old and from the attic floor of a Wisconsin home

PROJECT TEAM

The boxes were monitored weekly on average by a team led by Pat Becker and Will Waller with assistance from UW student volunteer and Friends board student representative Mitch Thomas. Paul Noeldner and other member of the Bird Buddies team help provide advice, assistance and backup.

2015 BIOCORE PRAIRIE BLUEBIRD TRAIL NESTING REPORT

Data are reported yearly to BRAW and consolidated with statewide Bluebird data dating back many years. This data are used to help document species success and to help refine protocols, box designs and monitoring recommendations.

<u>Species</u>	<u>BB 1st</u>	<u>BB 2nd</u>	<u>BB 3rd</u>	<u>TS</u>	<u>HW</u>
Attempts					
Eggs	0	16			
Hatchlings	7			20	32
Fledglings	5			>15	

The example below is an individual weekly report prepared by trail monitor Pat Becker.

See <http://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/bluebird.html> for the full Friends web page and detailed reports.

BB Trail Biocore Prairie Date: 6/27/2015 Recorder: Pat Becker						
Box	Species	Nest	Eggs	Young	Fledge	Comments
BB1	-	0	0	0	0	
BB2	-	0	0	0	0	Last week, BB nest with 1 egg and 2 young
BB3	HW	yes	0	0	0	Nest beginning, parent flew out
BB4	TS	yes	0	0	3	Were last week ready to fledge
BB5	TS	yes	0	6	4	2 flew out. Last week, some were more underneath those on top. Parents divebombing
BB6	HW	yes	0	0	0 (4 TS)	4 TG fledged. HW already building on TS nest
BB7	BB	yes	5	0	0	BB won over the TS. No parents seen or heard
BB8	TS	yes	0	5	0	TS Nest on top of HW nest. Parents divebombing
BB9	TS	yes	0	0	2	2 fully feathered last week
BB10	-	0	0	0	0	
BB11	HS	yes	0	0	0	Removed
BB12	HS	yes	3	0	0	Removed
BB13	HS	yes	0	0	0	Removed
BB14	-	0	0	0	0	

2015 BIOCORE PRAIRIE BLUEBIRD TRAIL PROJECT MAP



The blue pins indicate the locations and numbers of the Bluebird boxes.