



Friends of the

Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area

Photo by LARRY DAU

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

MONITORING

- Monitoring the nesting boxes consists of visiting them every week to ten days, checking for nests, counting the eggs and/or young, and removing inactive nests once the young have fledged.
- Tools for the monitor include bird and flower reference books, a hand mirror for peering into the nesting hollows, field glasses, camera, a sun hat, clipboard, a pair of pliers, and a putty knife. Most boxes are located along the sandy fire lanes, so a car is the best way to get there.
- The monitoring project goes on throughout the summer, beginning with the first arrivals in early April. Many of the boxes provide homes to more than one nest over the course of the season, which on the Namekagon Barrens ends in early August. Results are compiled and submitted to the [Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin](#) for its continuing analysis of bluebird population trends statewide.

LIKE TO HELP?

CONTACT Us

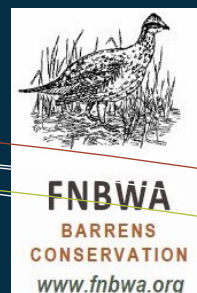
Bluebirds on the Barrens

We lost an important friend January 17, 2018, Bruce DeLong. He was a long time member of FNBWA from its very beginning around 2008. He led our birding walks at each of our summer meetings for all of those years. More recently, he managed our blue bird boxes regularly and filed the reports to different birding groups and to the state. Bruce also shared some interesting stories about these weekly trips to the boxes.

Bruce spent summers at the family cabin in northern Wisconsin. A cabin rule — no electricity, no running water. It is a place to be in solitude and with nature. While there, he developed his interest in bird banding and received his Federal Bird Banding Permit which he held as a master birder until his

death. During his birding career, Bruce banded, identified and released over 12,000 birds.

Bruce was a supporter of the Sierra Club, the Midwest Environmental Advocates, the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Board member of the Amery Lakes and Rehabilitation District, and, of course, a member of the Audubon Society, the Inland Bird-Banding Association and the Wisconsin Ornithological Society. He especially enjoyed being a member of the Namekagon Barren's Wildlife Area, spending many summer hours driving and hiking this large area and maintaining 24 bird houses on the Barren's Bluebird Trail.



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Serving the Barrens

Since 2007

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