

The H & B Bremer Sanctuary is excited to announce that we have one Barred Owl owlet located in our traditional nest box this year. We were totally caught off guard as we had been monitoring the modified owl box that has contained owlets for the past two years and were saddened to find no eggs. We had observed the paired traditional box from a distance but had not noticed any activity until we observed an adult head peeking out during our Annual Spring Bird Hike on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He/She hatched approximately around March 18<sup>th</sup> and is enjoying all of the parent's attention. We do not know if this was the only egg or other eggs were rendered infertile. Since there is not a plumage difference in Barred



Owls, we have no way of knowing the gender of the hatchling. In adults, the female is typically 1/3 larger than the male. The owlet will leave the nest box when it is approximately 28-35 days old entering into its branching phase (branch hopping). The owlet will sharpen its flight skills over the next 5-7 weeks but is still dependent on the parents for food.

With all this being said, we are thrilled to announce a contest to name our owlet. We are asking our audience to submit one name to the sanctuary via our Facebook page, website or placing the information in a designated canister located inside the Little Free Library in front of our Education Barn and Meeting Hall. Please include your name choice along with contact information; your name and either email or phone number. The contest will begin on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and run thru Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. The Stewards of Bremer will pick one winner and that person will receive a \$20.00 gift card.

## Bremer Sanctuary "Name the Owlet"

Owlet name

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

(Email or phone number)

Submit your entry on Facebook: Bremer Sanctuary, Hickory Hills Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society or website "contact us" link at [bremersanctuary.org](http://bremersanctuary.org). Our entry canister is located at 194 Bremer Lane in Hillsboro, Illinois.