

Purple Martin Chatter

A Publication of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association

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A Message from Tom Rank, President, WPMA:

Officially the first day of spring is March 20th, and for some, seeing their first robin of the year signifies the beginning of spring. For me, spring doesn't begin until the first purple martin of the season arrives. Early arrival dates at my colony site can vary from year to year and can range from late March or early to mid-April.

Soon all eyes and ears will be turned to the sky as we wait anxiously for our birds to return. For most landlords, it's actually a homecoming of sorts to see their birds return for the nesting season. For those of you who are not familiar with the PMCA (Purple Martin Conservation Association) Scout Report, you can track the northern migration of purple martins by going to <http://www.purplemartin.org/scoutreport/> . While you're there, make sure to check out the PMCA's extensive website for all things purple martins. You can show your support for the PMCA by becoming a member. It's an investment that will help to ensure that purple martins will be preserved for current and future generations.

continued on page 2



Don't forget to check our website periodically for updates, pictures, videos, and other helpful Purple Martin information. If you'd like to see something on our website, or if there is something you think would help other martin enthusiasts, please e-mail Tom or Nicki.

The website is:

www.wisconsinpurplemartins.org

Mission Statement of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association (WPMA):

To restore and preserve the Purple Martin population throughout Wisconsin with an educational emphasis on attracting, managing, and maintaining Purple Martin colonies for current and future generations.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1** Message from Tom Rank, President WPMA
- 2** Out and About in Wisconsin
- 3** Thank you from last season
Cricket Flipper by Ike Kumrow

The Wisconsin Purple Martin Association is pleased to announce the appointment of two new directors to our group! Please help us welcome well known purple martin expert Richard Nikolai, WI DNR Wildlife Biologist (retired) and long-time purple martin landlord Larry Lienau to our organization. Combined they both bring decades of experience and knowledge to our group.

On a closing note, I would like to encourage as many landlords as possible to consider adding supplemental feeding to your list of best management practices. Living in Wisconsin we are all aware of the fluctuating weather patterns that we can be subjected to, especially in the springtime. Having your purple martins trained to accept supplemental feeding can often make the difference between life and death when extended periods of inclement weather arrive. There are several instructional videos available on youtube that will give you the basic information to help you train purple martins how to accept supplemental feeding. If you have questions or need help about feeding purple martins or anything else, please contact anyone of our qualified staff or one of our statewide mentors that are located throughout the state of Wisconsin. <http://www.wisconsinpurplemartins.org/>

Happy Birding

Tom Rank

We are also on Twitter! Purple Martins @WisPMA

Out and About in Wisconsin This Season

Our group members will be busy presenting at various workshops throughout Wisconsin this season. The following is a list of activities we have planned for the season so far:

Monday, March 16th: Tom and Joe did a presentation at Lombardi Middle School in Green Bay.

Saturday, June 20th: We will be at the 2015 Treasures of Oz Eco-Tour at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve in Belgium.

Saturday, June 27st: Our group will have a table set up at the Oconto Bird City Nature Festival at Copper Culture State Park in Oconto.

TBD May or June: We will be giving a presentation on Purple Martins at Kohler-Andrae State Park at their Nature Center in Sheboygan.

Please contact any board member if you'd like us to present at or attend a workshop

.Thank you from last season...

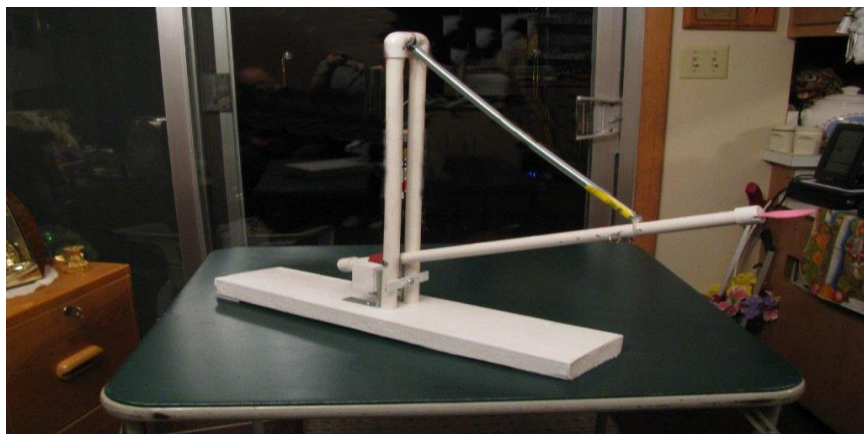
As with any newer organization, we are constantly learning as we grow. With the implementation of several new changes we made last year, we feel we are now better equipped to help restore and preserve the purple martin population across the state of Wisconsin. The last newsletter of the 2014 season never got published, so I'm including some information below that we still want to share with everyone:

We would like to encourage anyone that is willing to share their knowledge and passion of purple martins with others that might need assistance to consider volunteering for our "statewide mentor program"... you can make a difference!

We had another successful Martifest 2014 last summer in July, hosted by Larry and Monica Lienau. The weather was great, and the rain held off until later that evening. It was great to see familiar faces and meet new people. We are always in awe of all the wonderful people we come in contact with who also share a love of purple martins.

We have to dedicate a special word of thanks to Larry and Monica Lienau for hosting "Martifest 2014" at their beautiful home, a great time was had by all! To all the generous donors and volunteers that helped make "Martifest 2014" a success, Troyers Birds' Paradise, Terry Suchma (the Purple Martin Society, NA), Purple Martin Conservation Association, and other donors---thank you!

There are so many people and organizations to thank that have contributed in one way or another to the success of the WPMA. A special thank you to our staff, their spouses, and Tom's wife, Candy. Without their help, the WPMA would not exist! To all of our loyal supporters, Jim Baumgart (editor of Crosstrails), the Purple Martin Conservation Association, WPMA - mentor volunteers, or anyone that I may have inadvertently left out---a huge **Thank You!** We also appreciate the communication we have with Purple Martin organizations in other states, such as Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Illinois.



Cricket Flipper submitted by Ike Kumrow

For years I have seen landlors on video or personally flip crickets for supplemental feeding by using a plastic spoon, bending it down and releasing it, sending the cricket airborne for a martin to catch it mid-air.

But after flipping many crickets, the fingers and thumb get sore.

I designed and built my own cricket flipper using 1/2" PVC pipe, a 2"x 6" board, and a spring. All this for around \$6.00.

Officers and Board of Directors Contact Information:

Tom Rank, President	(920) 564-6507	tcsrank@yahoo.com
Greg Zimmermann, Vice President	(920) 467-6253	grgz52@yahoo.com
Nicki Schumacher, Secretary	(920) 565-2273	nmjrs@tds.net
Joe Francis III, Treasurer	(920) 467-8255	eijo3@sbcglobal.net
Ike Kumrow	(262) 692-2648	ikeandjan@frontier.com
Les Rhines	(920) 208-7532	lesmaryrhines@gmail.com
Bob Ring	(920) 840-2098	ringbob@earthlink.net