

Wisconsin Purple Martin Association Fall 2021 Minutes

October 13,2021, 6:00pm

Welcome and meeting operations:

Note: The invitation for this meeting went out to the WPMA Board of Directors and to the Friends and Members of the WPMA

Meeting took place via “Zoom” with a 40-minute time limit

Board Members Present: Debbie Zimmermann-Treasurer, Greg Zimmermann – Vice-President, Les Rhines – President, Board members, Dick Nikolai, Bob Ring and Larry Lienau

Friends and Members Present: Gail Bolden, Lia Anne Andre, Jim Voskuil (thank you for attending)

Thank you to all that participated in this first try using “Zoom” as a means to hold our meetings.

Treasurers Report:

As of Sept. 2012 we have \$405.18 in checking and \$2012.22 in savings. We spent only \$26.99 on food and drink for Martin fest as it was a little smaller than other years.

Thanks Larry for opening your home to us.

We made two \$50 donations. One to WOW (wildlife of Wisc.) the other to Bird City. I received 2 lovely thank you letters from both organizations. (The Thank you letter from Bird City is attached to these minutes) We received a \$250 check from Dick Nikolai for work he did with prairies landowners. Thank you so much Dick for all the work you do. Happy Fall everyone

Debbie Zimmermann

New Facebook “Group” page:

A new Facebook page was created to provide the public the opportunity to make their own posts, like the PMCA Facebook page. As of this meeting we have 49 members.

Les Rhines and Bob Ring are currently listed as administrators

Event Calendar:

October, 2021 – Dick will be helping to place martin housing near the UW Oshkosh

January, 2022 – Dick reported that he will not be participating in the Toward Harmony with Nature (Wild Ones) in Oshkosh due to Covid concerns.

February 2022 - Madison Garden and Landscape Expo – Les reported that registration for the Garden Expo was due September 15th, Prior to that deadline we had made the decision to not participate, primarily due to the slow vaccination rate in the state. At the time we were not sure what other groups were going to do but have later found out that BRAW and WBU in Madison were also not participating.

April, 2022 – Greg and Larry will be providing a talk about Purple Martins at the Plymouth Bird and Nature Club held at the Plymouth Generations site. Time 7:00 pm?

Fall 2021 Newsletter – Brief discussion about the Fall Newsletter, Les indicated that it would be published and sent out to all emails October 14 or 15 and it would include the minutes of this (fall) meeting. The newsletter would be posted to the website and Facebook the following week. Dick reminded the group to continue writing articles for the newsletter; many of the people that he talks to have told him that they have been reading it and look forward to it.

Donation of gourds from Paul Krejci – Lomira.

We received a donation of 30 Troyer horizontal gourds from Paul Krejci of Lomira. 24 of the gourds have round holes with tail supports while only 6 have been modified with Troyer tunnels. To date Dick has spoken for 8 gourds (4 with tunnel entrances and 4 with round holes). Larry has asked for 2 with tunnels to be used at the Maywood public site. Anyone wishing to take some gourds and use as is or convert, they are available just contact Les Rhines. The donation also appears in the Fall 2021 newsletter.

Eagle Scout Update:

Logan Poelzer, the Eagle Scout is proceeding with his Scout Project; he intends to get the base for the pole in the ground yet this fall and put the house on the pole next spring in time for the martins to arrive. The type of house that is being built is an 8 compartment Northstar. The house will be placed at Voyager park in Appleton. Parks and grounds are helping Logan with his project and have indicated they will also help with monitoring the house during the martin season.

Evaluation of Sheboygan County Public Sites:

Plymouth Generations, Sheboygan Maywood, Sheboygan Kohler Andrae, Jetzers Lake

Discussion about the lack of success at these 4 public colonies in Sheboygan County, Les will organize a study group to tour each location and make a report and recommendations at the next meeting.

Jim Voskuil noted that the Harrington Beach site that he maintains is doing very well.

Other Business:

Dick reported on the talk he did at "The Nest" October 2, 2021. It went well with 35+ people. Most had little to no experience on Purple Martins. They will continue providing opportunities in the future. The building where it was located is an historic site for the fire department. They will adapt the building and improve its nostalgic qualities. These talks in the future will be placed in the "Our Wisconsin" magazine so they will have a half million eyes look at it. Roy wants to have Greendale be a destiny for various things including items relating to wildlife or birds like purple martins. We will be on the agenda as long as he is involved as well as the owner of "The Nest".

Dick

Jan Kumrow Colony Update: Greg and Les have been in contact with Jan regarding the continuation of the colony. At present Jan's son-in-law will be lowering the houses and gourds and covering for the winter. While this is not certain, it appears that Jan does not have anyone to help her with the birds next season and there is a strong possibility that the colony will be dispersed in 2022. Dick recommended that if dispersal is the option that we the WPMA make every effort to notify landlords within 5 to 10 miles of Jan's colony that martins will be looking for new nesting sites, with the potential distance of 20 to 25 miles. The WPMA can do this via the newsletter, webpage and also Facebook. Les and Greg will arrange a meeting with Jan in early to mid-December 2021 to discuss the colonies future.

Next Meeting Date: March 16, 2022, 6:00pm via "Zoom"

Meeting concluded 6:51pm



Bird City Wisconsin

Making our communities healthy for birds ... and people

4230 N. Oakland Ave., No. 219

Shorewood, WI 53211



August 31, 2021

Deborah Zimmermann, Treasurer
Wisconsin Purple Martin Association
N6018 Hwy. 32
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Dear Deborah:

On behalf of Bird City Wisconsin, I thank you for the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association's generous donation of \$50, made on August 15, 2021.

Your support will help us as we work for Madison's bird-friendly building ordinance and encourage communities throughout Wisconsin to implement sound bird-conservation practices. Bird City Wisconsin does this by offering public recognition to communities that enhance the environment for birds and educate residents about the contributions that birds make to healthy communities. Your gift is essential to helping us fulfill our mission.

Your donation will also enable Bird City to do the following:

- Increase the number of communities recognized as Bird Cities
- Continue advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin's birds
- Through our annual small grants program, provide a helping hand to Bird City communities that are launching or completing a project that benefits birds
- Help migratory birds by increasing sales of Bird Friendly®-certified coffee
- Assist communities outside Wisconsin as they establish their own Bird City programs

Bird City Wisconsin is a program of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, Inc., an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. No goods or services were received with respect to this contribution.

Thank you for your commitment to our work.

Sincerely,

Charles Hagner
Director