

Purple Martin Chatter

A Publication of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association

Fall 2021



Inside This Issue:

- Presidents Message
- Cleaning out nest boxes prior to storage
- Bird Banding Afternoon
- Data Due for Nesting 2021 Success
- Mentoring Update
- Handling near fledging birds
- Gourd Donation
- Fall Meeting Minutes
- And More



A Message from the President:



Greetings everyone, Fall is definitely here! The telltale signs are all around, darkness comes earlier each day, we feel the nighttime temperatures getting cooler as well. Where I live in Plymouth, I'm starting to see the maple trees begin to show some color, and for the last few evenings my back yard has been filled with Robins making their migration to warmer climates.

Fall also starts the time for preparation for the next martin season and also finishing up on the duties from the current martin season. That's where some of the articles of this issue of the "Chatter" comes in.

Vice-President Greg Zimmermann in his message talks about fall cleanup of housing and shows some of the things that a landlord may find when doing a fall clean up.

In another article retired DNR Biologist and Board member Dick Nikolai describes what he needs from landlords to continue the data collection that provides us martin landlords with information about the health of our colonies here in Wisconsin.

Dick has also authored another article that many will find helpful, including myself. It's about doing nest checks when the young are near or at fledging stage.

On the cover is a photo that was taken at an open house and banding at the colony of Larry and Monica Lienau of Sheboygan. (Photo credits go to Debbie Zimmerman) Dick Nikolai was on hand to band the young at the colony, we had a nice turnout, and good participation at the event. Inside this issue you will find more information and pictures about Larry and Monica's colony.

In other news, we've made the hard decision to **not** participate in the Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo held in Madison scheduled for February 2022, due to Covid concerns. However, we fully intend to host our 2022 Martinfest at the Marsh haven Nature Center in Waupun on June 25, 2022. The Wisconsin Purple Martin Association will be celebrating 10 years, so plan on joining us at that mainly outdoor, family friendly event and help us celebrate.

In closing, there's much more inside this issue, so, it's time to grab a coffee, or beverage of choice, sit back and enjoy this edition of The Purple Martin Chatter. And please feel free to send this to a friend as well.

A tutorial from the Vice president on Fall Cleanout:

A word from the vice president: It's fall season and it's time to take your housing down. Here's a tip on what you need to do to get started, first off after you lower your housing check your houses for bird mites and any other insects that may take up residence in your housing. Wasps can occasionally make paper nests in your housing, and if you don't take precautionary measures to eliminate them you might find yourself invaded and stung by these nasty creatures, (see figure 1). Gourds seem to be a great place for them, especially up in the neck of the gourd, and then there is the bird mite. Bird mites originate in most birds but also live near birds and in nests. They look like pepper scattered on your housing (see figure 2). Bird mites live on and feed on the blood of birds, and can bite humans. So do your best to make sure these pests are eliminated before you store your housing for the winter months. This is especially true if you store your housing in your home or basement. After all is good, take a look at your poles and winches, or any other hardware. If anything looks worn out or rotted, now is the time to take action, that way you will be well prepared for next season. Also, a new coat of paint will make sure your housing looks good for next season. See you all next year!



Figure 1

Here's a typical wasp nest in a martin house



Figure 2

Here's a sample of bird mites on housing

Open House—Bird Banding Afternoon at colony of Larry and Monica Lienau



At our colony we have 66 nesting cavities in 4 gourds, 2 wooden boxes, and 5 houses. I have been a Purple Martin landlord for 50 years. Only recently (the last ten years) since I became a member of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association have I increased my housing and numbers of birds. This year, in 2021 we had 52 pairs, approximately 235 eggs and about 197 chicks that hatched and fledged.

On July 10th, 2021, Master Bander, Dick Nicholai, banded 53 birds during the Martin Gathering that was held at our colony. Les Rhines, Deb and Greg Zimmermann, and Bob Ring



helped with the event. The event was very well attended and interest in the gathering was very satisfying, as approximately 20-25 people attended. The WPMA would like to thank everyone that participated in the event. We look forward to events like this again next year.

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. 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



Request for year end success of Purple Martin nesting.

Dick Nikolai

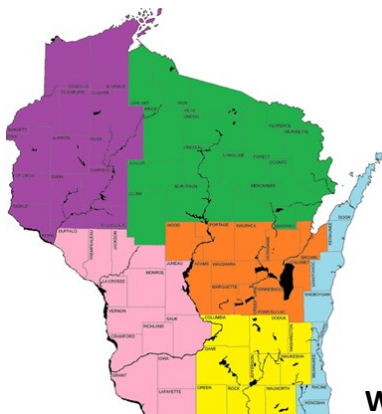
Each year many of us collect valuable information that can assist all of us here in Wisconsin and nationally. If you have submitted information for the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) then it will be quite easy for you to send me a copy of that to my email address at prairiechicken@att.net or to my home address at 3 Eastfield Court, Appleton, WI 54915. For those of you who probably have the basic information for this past nesting season of 2021 I am seeking specifically the arrival of your first Purple Martin and when the last date known of when they left. Approximate date is fine but for the future keep it in mind these dates. Other information that is needed refers to how many nests were made in your housing or pairs if known, how many nests were made that had eggs laid, how many young hatched and how many young fledged from your colony. These six pieces of information are helpful for me to look at creating discussions for Wisconsin about our past breeding season.

Please let me know where your colony is located either by address which is helpful or by city. If we look back at my summary for 2020, note that I created six regions across Wisconsin. These areas are my summation of what I call Purple Martin habitats as I see it. These can be debatable but currently I feel comfortable of their designation. Your representation will be shown in our counties with a box showing how many reports received. For 2020 we received 16 reports scattered across the state. Let's improve upon this filling in the regions mentioned.

Last of all give me an overall idea what happened from your perspective concerning weather (how dry or wet), windy conditions greater than 20 mph for an extended period like 3+ days during nesting & rearing, cool conditions existing greater than three days during egg laying or brood rearing that were less than 50 degrees, and finally how wet or dry your area was during the nesting season. Note that I do have general ideas across the state of these weather obstacles but I rather have it fine-tuned to allow other people to show their situations. Insects drive the season for our Purple Martins based on weather so any referral to them is also helpful.

Many comments to me throughout the year were relayed of finally seeing how we are doing in Wisconsin. Some people were concerned about their success. Our success is the combined success throughout Wisconsin. The highs and lows are important for it tells us all that each colony contributes an aspect.

Failure is important equally as success. Given all of this I will summarize our season for our January newsletter. By that time, we will have Purple Martins arriving into the United States. Thanks for your contributions.



Wisconsin Purple Martin Regions.

Nest Monitoring (To be doing or not to be) That is the Question!

Dick Nikolai

Each year all purple martin landlords come to some type of dilemma of conducting nest checks or monitoring their colony when young get near the age of fledging. Granted I may have different agendas when checking housing for purple martins. Our nest monitoring is used for banding so more of an intensive checking takes place so we know about all details of each cavity. Our details become almost a daily chore to properly capture the adults once the young hatch. This monitoring serves its purpose to reduce stress on the Purple Martins for it gives a constant check on their status along with familiarity of us. Housing goes up and down vertically so the young along with the parents know it is a daily routine during warm periods of the day. We become a part of the colony experience just like a Cooper's Hawk flies over or through the area to see if a meal is available.

Weekly nest checks are commonly encouraged to gather support information to react to problems encountered. No checks mean a person has no knowledge of what is happening within the nest or even the colony itself. It's like ignoring problems with a hope of always having a successful colony. *Mother Nature* does not operate in a vacuum. More experience one has in monitoring the more it benefits those young purple martins to their eventual first flight along with their success of the colony.

Yearly monitoring contains many highs and lows even for a seasoned retired wildlife biologist. As I said many times before with people who know me, our purple martins are my extended family. Seeing even one young purple martin fledge is an accomplishment for it gives hope amongst the many downs of a breeding season. That is why putting so much effort in monitoring even when we have been told not to monitor the housing after the young are 21 days old or when there is fledging occurring.

My suggestion for many of you is not to fear the young fledging. That will always occur regardless. Note if you lower your housing on a schedule the martins are quite accustomed to the floating vertically downward and upward. Use of monitoring needs to be completed on warm days with timing beyond the hurried pace of the adults feeding early in the morning along with the last snacks of the late afternoon. Disturbance needs to occur after 10AM and be completed before 4PM. There are always exceptions to guidance but it relies on common sense for the protection of those purple martins whether they are young or old.

Each day that monitoring is taking place always survey the area in the air and on the ground. That also goes for those days when just observing. Note always what your adults are telling you through sight and sound. Follow what is happening with those young with your monitoring sheets. Are those young coming out the entrance holes, are they on the ground, what is the weather each day (windy, below 50 degrees, wet & cloudy, exceptionally hot, drastic temperature changes, how much precipitation and when it occurs, etc.) and if you are not present have someone check on your martins. You are best when you know on a daily basis how your colony is doing just like a watched pot never boils. You see the growth of the young, know the parents even better and are aware of changes that could possibly occur.

My banding along with monitoring experiences are varied over 35+ years and personal experience of 65 years with martins has always been questioned or critiqued by myself even when I fail to fledge some martins due to circumstances beyond my capabilities. So, bear with your heart for its that reason I may go against the grain. I have seen disease nearly take all our young, cold weather extend beyond what was to be, storms coming at the end of daylight, nests drenched several days in a row, predators getting beyond guards just to mention a few. A guard is as good as the person who places it and knows that it is only 95% effective. Always expect the unexpected. In 2021 it has been a bummer of a year.

Just to give you an example of what happened in one of our houses that we take care of during this past season near High Cliff State Park. During one of the storms that we had in late July the pole broke sending the housing crashing down with young in it past 24 days of age. Due to other circumstances, I was traveling to another city several hours away. The landlord of that housing is in his later 80's. Both of us assumed we lost the young along with possibly the adults. With the housing down on the ground the adults and young survived. The adults (ASY's) fed their young for two days while the landlord offered what he could do until we had time to do repairs. Needed to find info on how many young survived from the cavity along with their status and last but not least needed to know when they would fledge.



We actually placed a new pole and hung the quarter section of a T-14 onto it which took three hours. Caught all five young in bushes and flowers and placed into the cavity. Hole was covered for 20 minutes to calm them plus another half hour before the adults came back to feed their young. Without monitoring that would have not been accomplished. From parents to young that acquaintance of monitoring could have ended in disaster. Handling them came easy so this was a success.

Another story even after the one mentioned. A mixed (SY-M & ASY-F) pair of martins had young that were to fledge on August 20. Four young were in the cavity with very attentive parents. Caught and banded the adults prior to two back-to-back thunderstorms delivering several inches of rain. First storm occurred during the day on August 10 with no harm to all after check. The second storm occurred the following day at dusk lasting for several hours with temperatures falling. By the time my arrival the following day in the afternoon the young were dead in a rain-soaked cavity after 18 hours passed on August 12. Age of the adults certainly were a factor and error on my part due to personal items to be accomplished at home may have contributed. It does suck the wind out of one trying to fledge some martins.

Others in 2021 have experienced problems past the last monitoring date and when young are fledging. Take the chance and do another session of monitoring. Even when finding young dead, it is worth noting. Young are trampled by their own siblings when they are being fed due to the law of survival through competition where the healthiest survive. Sometimes it is also plausible for the birds in a cavity to fledge and then come back. They may not have paid attention to their parents for training on how to capture insects or wanted the safety of the cavity to be fed. SY martins are not always great parents so that may also come into play for the death of their young martins. That is what observing does is indicate what problems may occur while trying to get ahead of those future problems. Keep up the great work on checking. It always makes a person a better landlord for those martins.

Storms can cause moisture in nests or from body heat adding to growth of mites or fleas or lice or some other invertebrates. Parents often refuse to go into cavities when these heavy infestations occur especially when the parents are SY's. Towards the end of the season SY's do not have the colony effect and often can abandon the young. These SY parents are easier prey for Cooper's hawks or even owls at night for they are inexperienced in raising young. With fewer eyes watching it is not as safe for the few remaining pairs. Even if one of the pair is lost generally the remaining one abandons quite easily unless it is an ASY.

Note that sometimes the young get anxious trying to get food and fall out of the cavity. Having a small scale handy gives you a perspective of how stressed the young may be. They should weigh 55-65 grams between 14-18 days old. Young martin bones harden during those ages becoming hollow so they can be light enough to fly. If young martins develop a bacterial problem with their eyes, they lose the ability for their nictating membrane to cleanse their eye and may cause sight, balance and flight problems. Result is going down to the ground instead of up into the air. Always inspect their

feathers to ensure they are clean and kept up from grooming. That is where monitoring assists, so you can identify the age of the parents while knowing when they would be fledging. Having the house checked often even when attaining the age of almost fledging keeps the young more used to the housing being checked. They often will give a chance for viewing by cowering in the back of the cavity. If any young fly, chances are they have flown before. Adults learn the voices of their young sometime after 20 days of age. Like teenagers their voices squeak with high or low pitches until they get near fledging. This is timely for when they attain flight the parents can easily identify their young fledglings' voices. Hope this long narrative gives everyone at least some insight to go beyond the normal inspections. Monitoring truly is the key with most people fearful of checking the cavities when it gets near the fledging stage. I would rather know through checks at a minimum of every three days or less.

If we want to care for our purple martins in a holistic way, then the fear of them fledging early should not be a factor. Housing that goes up and down many times has little effect until the young are touched. They cower in the back as the parents have taught them or through natural instinct. Place foam stoppers or cups into the cavities with strings or cardboard over each cavity



All young that fly are either ones that have fledged already or are the ones capable of flying. Fledging occurs from 25 to 34 days depending on the condition of the young due to food resources. Young martins on the ground need to be placed back into their cavity if the adults are feeding them. That is where monitoring records assist. Martins are best to be cared for by their parents. When no parents are present meaning they have either died or abandoned the cavity then one needs to either place into a cavity of similar aged young or contact a rehabilitator. See the URL below:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/directory.html>

Before any problems occur monitor your cavities until all fledging has taken place. Details are to get people to effectively manage their colony. They need to be ready when any problems occur so one can address them. Being a detective manages the colony so a disaster does not cause the colony to be lost.

Many landlords miss the last two weeks or longer of the young Martin's life cycle. They assume the young will fledge without problems but that is where many problems begin. As I alluded is that every young martin counts in the later stages before fledging for those have the greatest chance to be someone's martins to colonize the next site the following year. If they are in poor condition or under further stress Mother Nature has ways to make sure only the strongest will survive with or without our assistance.



Day of hatching (top left). 15-days old (middle). 21-days old (top right). Learn to age young by monitoring and writing down the cavities age. Compile your own pictures or have on hand a chart from the PMCA showing the age of young martins. Being a responsible landlord takes in more than placing your housing. Remember it's your extended family.

Mentoring Update: Parsons/Martell New Richmond - Mentor Brad Landgren

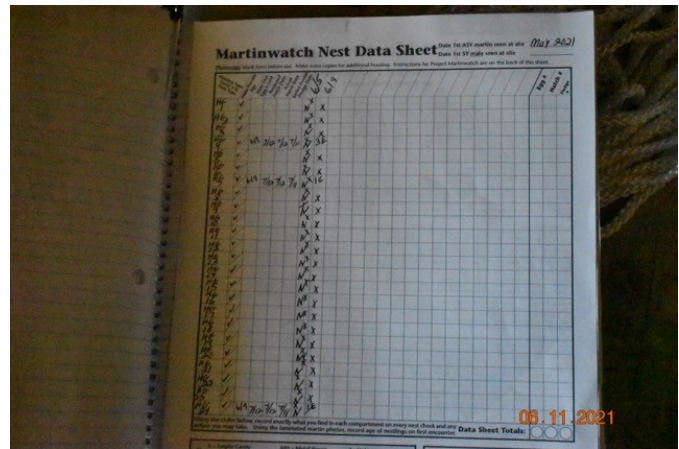
In the Spring 2021 issue of The Purple Martin Chatter we provided a memorial about the passing of Larry Martell. Larry maintained a small colony at his home farm near New Richmond. At the time of his passing his colony existed of 7 gourds and 2 houses, with one of the houses being in bad shape. Although he did not keep any records the colony seemed to be growing.

Rather than abandon the colony, Larry's family; daughter Carole, son Loren and Larry's wife, and Carole's brother-in-law, Tim were determined to continue and build the colony and asked the WPMA for help finding a mentor to help them.

Enter mentor Brad Landgren. On March 13th, 2021 Brad met with the family. In Brad's words. "



I went down to Carol Parson's fathers farm today and spoke for quite a while with her Brother, mother, and brother-in-law and looked over the situation and asked what they would like to do, and how I could help. We will be replacing the old house with new ones that will be built by brother-in-law Tim and also putting another new pole with a new round rack system. I will be helping with the pole installation and setting up with everything hopefully in the next few weeks. "



The next email I received from Brad, was this "Positive note Parsons / Martell that we mentored is doing awesome! Carole's brother keeps in touch and said they are up to 10 birds! I will stop in before work tomorrow and check in. Keep in touch."

Mentoring Update: Parsons/Martell New Richmond - Mentor Brad Landgren (Cont'd)

And the next update from Brad read like this: "Wow has it been hot! So I went down to Carole Parsons site that I have been working on and here is what we got, there is a total of 54 cavities, divided up as 20 house units and 34 gourds, all but 2 of the house rooms show nest activity and that includes all the gourds. So far there are 11 eggs total in different nests. I think we can call that a success! But I still don't know if all of the cavities are actually being used, only time will tell. " crossed!

In summary, here are the details of the renewed colony: 24 Troyer Horizontal Gourds (new), 4 Vertical Gourds, 3 Other Gourds, 26 total house compartments, 12 of which were added this spring. (most of the housing has Starling Resistant Entrances)

The family hosted a total of 13 pairs, 8 pairs in gourds and 5 pairs in houses. A total of 18 young fledged with 4 eggs that did not hatch.

Vents were added to the caps of the gourds, during the season, and predator guards are planned for next season, because during the season a Raccoon had to be trapped and relocated. Other considerations for next season are the addition of 6 more gourds and possibly some Chirpy nests.

We at the WPMA would like to say Thank you to Brad and many others like Brad, for answering the call and taking the time to help others in their pursuit of being Purple Martin Landlords.



Editors Note: Do you have a story that you would like to share with the rest of our readers? I'm sure others would like to read it. Yours might be a story similar to this, or you might have some tips, or techniques that you would like to share with the rest of us. If you would like to tell your story drop us a line at this email.

purplemartinchatter@gmail.com



Donation of Troyer Horizontal Gourds

Recently the WPMA received a generous donation of Troyer Horizontal gourds from Paul Krejci of Lomira, Wisconsin. Paul had been a martin landlord for many years here in Wisconsin and also in Florida, see the accompanying picture of Paul's Florida colony of 90 pairs.



Photo at left: Paul and Bonnie Krwejc at their home in Lomira



Of the 30 gourds there are still 18 that remain, ready for martins to use. The Troyer Horizontal gourds are configured as round holes with a tail support. In the present state they are **not** Starling Resistant, however, they can be modified easily with a Troyer tunnel. If you are interested in getting some of these gourds just contact me, Les Rhines at 920-889-0060 (talk or text) or use my email: musthavemartins@gmail.com If you wish to make a donation to WPMA in return for gourds that would be much appreciated.



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 land-owners. 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

MartinFest 2022

Saturday, June 25, at 9AM - 4PM
Marsh Haven Nature Center

W10145 State Rd 49, Waupun, Wisconsin

Located on 46 acres, three miles east of Waupun on the Northwest end of world famous Horicon Marsh.

Arrive to meet purple martin landlords & enthusiasts. Be inspired with the sights & sounds of a large colony of purple martins established in 1996-97. MartinFest will be centered around you, purple martins, Wildlife Disease Specialist Nancy Businga, President WPMA Les Rhines, & Master Bird Bander Dick Nikolai. Various vendors will be onsite throughout the day, a popular Festival silent auction & much discussion with colony landlords. Bring your whole family, friends & neighbors! *Disclaimer: Event program may change due to weather, cancellations from speaker or harm to birds.*

Food/Refreshments provided by Friends of Marsh Haven Nature Center. Proceeds to benefit Nature Center & Purple Martin Colony. MarshHaven.org

FREE event and open to public

AGENDA

9:00 AM--**MartinFest Opens/Sign In/Browse Displays**
10:00-10:30 AM--**Seminar: Purple Martin Ecology & Housing**
10:45-11:15 AM--**Seminar: Dealing with Weather, Nest Site Competitors & Predators**
12:00-1:00 PM--**Lunch/Browse Displays/View Martin Colonies**
1:00-2:00 PM--**Purple Martin Health, Disease & You (WDNR Nancy Businga)**
2:10-3:15 PM--**Nest Record Needs for Monitoring. Banding Demonstration**
3:25 PM --**Silent Auction Closes**
3:30 PM --**Award Silent Auction Items (Cash or Check)**
4:00 PM--**Event Ends**

Booths: Purple Martin Housing--*Bob Shimek*
Sparrow Traps, Decoys, Aerial Insect & Food Flippers, Nesting Material,
Martin Attractants,
Starling Exclusion Entrances, etc.--
Wisconsin Purple Martin Association www.wisconsinpurplemartins.org



Recruiting New Board of Directors and others to help us:

The WPMA is actively seeking to add 2 new members to the WPMA Board of Directors. Specifically, the position of Secretary and Board member. If you are interested in applying for one of these positions send an email to anyone of the Board members that are listed at the end of this newsletter. Please include your contact information, and provide a brief biography describing your experience, also provide a statement indicating why would like to serve, and what services or skills you can offer the organization. As stated in the Job Description and By-Laws newly elected Board Members serve a one year introductory term before being elected to a three year term. Elections of officers (typically) take place at the September BOD meeting, but exceptions can be made.

We can also use help with aspects of running an organization, duties like, webpage design and maintenance, and graphic arts (Newsletter). If you would like to help us in any way

We would like to hear from you! If you would like to share your purple martin story, we would like to include it in one of our newsletters. Please send it to me, Les Rhines, along with any photo's to purplemartinchatter@gmail.com attention: Les Rhines

We are looking for mentors! We at the Wisconsin Purple Martins have had many requests for assistance from people who are interested in starting colonies. While we have a network of mentors already, we would like to add to our list. Typically, people need help with site location, types of housing to use, and attraction methods.

If you feel that you would like to become involved in our mentor program contact Les Rhines at musthavemartins@gmail.com





WPMA Officers and Board of Directors Contact Information:

Les Rhines, President musthavemartins@gmail.com (920) 889-0060

Greg Zimmermann, Vice President grgz52@yahoo.com (920) 467-6253

Deb Zimmermann, Treasurer dpierce52@yahoo.com (920) 467-6253

Joe Francis, jnfrancis44@gmail.com (920) 918-4466

Larry Lienau, larmon@tds.net (920) 565-2780

Dick Nikolai, prairiechicken@att.net (920) 734-0828

Bob Ring, ringbob@earthlink.net (920) 9892771

Announcing the New Wisconsin Purple Martin Association Facebook page

The WPMA has recently created a new “Group” Facebook page that will allow members to post relative content, whereas the former page only allowed users to comment on official posts. Join us on Facebook. Just look for our Logo.



Upcoming Event:

April 12, 2022 Vice-President Greg Zimmerman and other WPMA members will be making a presentation about Purple Martins at the Plymouth Bird and Nature club at Plymouth Generations. Time yet to be determined. Watch our Facebook page for further details.



WPMA New Member Information Form

Please Print Legibly

Name: _____

Address below:

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ (Home/Cell)

Email Address: _____

Paid Date: _____ **Received By:** _____

Cost of 1 year membership is \$10.00 (memberships run from January 1 to December 31)
Payment by cash or check. Do not send cash in regular postal mail.

You will be contacted by someone from WPMA to complete your membership.

Send to WPMA Treasurer, N6018 Hwy 32, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085