

Purple Martin Chatter

A Publication of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association

Spring 2020

A Message from Les Rhines, President WPMA

Spring is, as they say, just around the corner. All the signs begin to emerge, we see the snow melting, we feel the warmth of the sun on our faces, or we see or hear the Robins as they return to Wisconsin. For me, all of those things are helpful, but when I hear or see my first Red Winged Black bird then I really become impatient for spring. So, with the thought that spring is not far behind, and while we still have a little time I recommend that we start to pay attention to the preparations needed to have a successful Purple Martin season. What I'm talking about is getting the houses or gourds ready; for some that may be making some minor repairs or putting on new coat of paint. For others, it might be adding new housing. Remember though not only to focus on the housing, but take the time to make sure that the winches and pulleys on the poles are in good and safe working order. It's also a good idea at this time to locate the safety pin and make sure that it fits properly in the pole. Yes spring will be here before we know it, and martins will start to arrive, usually in early April. Unfortunately, winter does not always take a hint, and likes to make a reappearance now and then so I'm asking that you also prepare to supplemental feed your martins by having either a supply of crickets on hand or by feeding scrambled eggs or meal worms. Bottom line is to have a plan in place that can be implemented when the weather is not favorable for martins. You can follow the migration by checking the PMCA's Scout Report page at www.purplemartin.org/scoutreport

Also in this issue of the Purple Martin Chatter you will read about the participation of the WPMA in events that occurred in early 2020, and future events including MartinFest 2020. At this time I am asking you to consider becoming a member of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association by contacting Deb Zimmermann at dpierce52@yahoo.com membership fee is \$10.00 annually. Benefits of membership are; Public Meetings, MartinFest, Statewide Mentor Program, Free Site Evaluations, Managed Public Colonies, and Newsletters.

Thanks, I hope that you have a good Martin season.
Les



Recent WPMA Event Activity

Pictures from the Madison Garden Expo February 7-9 2020.

Representing the WPMA at the Garden Expo were Dick Nikolai, Larry Lienau, Chuck Meyer, and Les Rhines. Alice in Dairyland stopped in for a visit to the booth on Sunday.

Dick Nikolai represented the WPMA at the Toward Harmony with Nature in Oshkosh on January 25, 2020

Bob Shimek represented the WPMA at the Wild Birds Unlimited in Green Bay on February 12, 2020

Upcoming WPMA Events

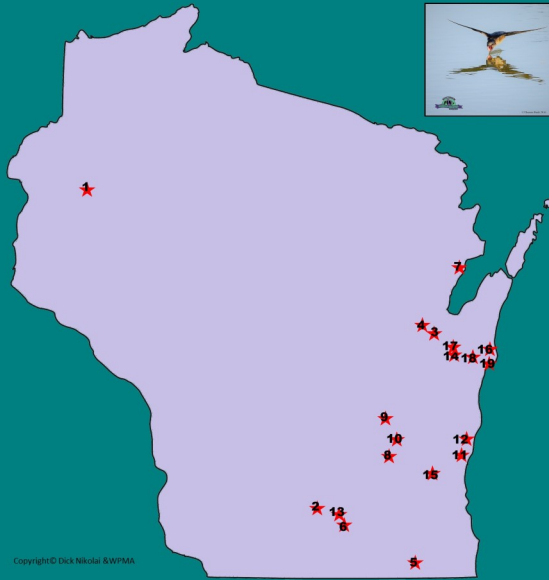
Lakeshore Chapter Meeting of Purple Martin Landlords at Maywood Environmental Park on March 19, 2020, at 6:30 pm, contact Les Rhines at musthavemartins@gmail.com or Larry Lienau at larmon@tds.net for details.

MartinFest 2020 at Marsh Haven Nature Center on June 27, 2020, contact Les Rhines at musthavemartins@gmail.com for details



To Restore And Preserve The Purple Martin Population Across Wisconsin

Wisconsin Purple Martin Association Public Colony Locations



Wisconsin Purple Martin Association Public Colony Locations

- 1) Cumberland—City Hall 950 1st Avenue, Cumberland, WI 54820
- 2) Middleton—Woodside Heights Park (Tiedeman Pond) 7312 Voss Parkway, Middleton, WI 53562
- 3) Sherwood—High Cliff State Park (Office & Marina), N7630 State Park Rd, Sherwood, WI 54169
- 4) Appleton—Lutz Park, 1320 S Lutz Drive, Appleton, WI 54914
- 5) Lake Geneva—Elm Park, Library & Beach, 918 W Main St, (Hwy 50), Lake Geneva, WI 53147
- 6) McFarland—Dane County Park (Fish Camp Park on Lake Kegonsa), 3383 County Road, McFarland, WI 53558
- 7) Oconto—Oconto City Park, 5182 County Hwy N, Oconto, WI 54153
- 8) Horicon—WDNR-Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area, N7725 Hwy28, Horicon, WI 53032
- 9) Waupun—Marsh Haven Nature Center W10145 State Road 49, Waupun, WI 53963
- 10) Mayville—Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, W4279 Headquarters Road, Mayville, WI 53050
- 11) Port Washington—Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory, 4970 County Club Road, Port Washington, WI 53074
- 12) Belgium—Harrington Beach State Park, 531 County Road D, Belgium, WI 53004
- 13) McFarland—Lewis Park, 5012 Highland Drive, McFarland, WI 53558
- 14) Plymouth—Generations (Intergenerational Center), 1500 Douglas Drive, Plymouth, WI 53073
- 15) Hartford—Pike Lake State Park, 3544 Kettle Moraine Rd, Hartford, WI 53027
- 16) Sheboygan—Ellwood H. May Environmental Park (Maywood), 3615 Mueller Rd, Sheboygan, WI 53083
- 17) Elkhart Lake—Sheboygan Broughton Marsh Park, W7039 County Rd SR, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
- 18) Sheboygan Falls—Pine Haven, 220 Haven Drive, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
- 19) Sheboygan—Kohler-Andrae State Park, 1020 Beach Park Ln, Sheboygan, WI 53081



Begin Trapping Now, Don't wait until the Martins arrive. Sparrows are already actively looking for potential nesting sites; this male Sparrow was hanging around my property and checking out my houses, so I installed a trap in one of the compartments. It did not take long. Follow the same advise for early season Starlings. *Les Rhines*

Call for Mentors: The WPMA is actively seeking landlords to provide mentoring services. If you are interested contact Les Rhines

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

Welcome New WPMA Members:

Rick Hall
 Pat Herman
 Gary Kleppe



MartinFest 2020

**Marsh Haven Nature Center
Waupun, Wisconsin
Saturday, June 27 9AM-4PM**



Location

Marsh Haven N. C.
W10145 State Road 49



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

Food/ Refreshment

Provided by Friends of
Marsh Haven Nature Center

Proceeds to benefit Nature Center &
Purple Martin Colony

www.marshhaven.org/

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

Free event is open to the public.



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.

9:00 AM	MartinFest 2020 Opens. Sign in & Browse
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 AM	Lunch. Browse Displays & View Martin Colony
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

If you would like to be included in future e-mailings of WPMA Newsletters contact
Les Rhines musthavemartins@gmail.com