Purple Martin
CHATTER
Winter 2024 | Preserving and Restoring the Purple Martin Population in Wisconsin | Volume 12 Issue 1

Happy New Year

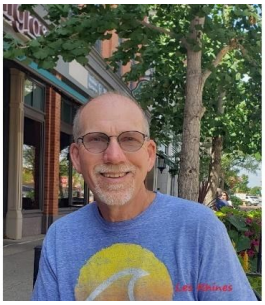
Winter is Here!
President's Message

2024 Garden & Landscape Expo
WPMA Returns for Year 4

WI PURPLE MARTIN SEASON REPORT

2024 MartinFest

Bedazzled Purple Martin Tower
Cover by Bob Ring



Winter is Here!

Les Rhines

It seemed that this year's winter took its good-natured time to get here, and for many of us, including myself, we enjoyed the almost warm balmy weather of December. Warmest December on record, most 50-degree days on record, at least that's what they were saying on the Milwaukee news stations which are the stations that we get at our Plymouth home. It was nice, but all the while I kept thinking that winter will eventually get here and geez, I hope that it doesn't hang on and treat us and our martins to those late winter storms in April. Well, winter did return on January 9, in the form of 5 to 9 inches of wet heavy snow, and with more snow predicted in the days to come, and then a dip in temperature. Yes, winter has arrived. But did you happen to notice that martins are beginning to arrive in our southern states? FYI, the first martin registered on the PMCA scout survey was reported in Melbourne Florida, on December 27, 2024, and as of this writing the PMCA has reported 32 sightings. So even though it's white and cold outside, spring is coming.

Now, back to winter events, and you might want to put this on your calendar. The PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo in Madison, held at the Alliant Energy Center, February 9th through the 11th. As its name implies, it is primarily gardening and landscaping, but there is much more. This will be the 4th time that the WPMA will have a booth at the show, and again we will be right next door to our birding friends, The Bluebird Restoration of Wisconsin or BRAW. If you're not familiar with this show, literally thousands of people attend the show's three day run, and it gives us an opportunity to talk Purple Martins with many interesting people. Dick Nikolai will be providing a presentation during the show as well, Dick's talk, *Attracting and Retaining Purple Martins* is scheduled for Saturday the 10th, at 10:45 in the Monona/ Wingra room. We look forward to seeing at our booth and at Dick's presentation.

Our 2024 MartinFest is shaping up to be an exciting time. We have included an event flyer with the specifics in this newsletter, so plan on joining us. Chuck and Annette Bartus, our hosts, have been active landlords for the past 12 years and in 2023 they fledged 157 young from 41 pairs. The date of MartinFest is June 29, 2024, from 12:00 to 4:00 pm and the location is N9434 Cty Rd G, St. Cloud, Wisconsin 53079.

Memberships. As a reminder, WPMA memberships expired on December 31, 2023. You must maintain a current membership to receive the 2024 Purple Martin Chatter newsletter in an email form. However, beginning in January 2024, we will post all four issues of the previous 2023 newsletters to our webpage. Please consider becoming a member, memberships are only $10.00 annually and run from January 1 through December 31, please contact Deb Zimmermann, Treasurer if you would like to become a member. Deb's contact information is provided at the end of the newsletter.

We will continue to offer these services to everyone; public meetings via Zoom, annual MartinFest event, statewide mentor program, free site evaluations, and managed public colonies. We will be taking memberships at the PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo in Madison. Please consider a WPMA membership for 2024.

Public Colonies. Did you know that the WPMA supports many public martin colonies throughout the state of Wisconsin? Included in this newsletter is more information about the locations of these colonies. Check them out, better yet, adopt a colony. Most of these public colonies are actively looking for volunteers to help manage the colony, most notably, by doing nest checks. Your involvement could be the difference in the success of the colony.

Next President. While I have agreed to remain president for another year, we continue our search for an individual to lead our organization forward. If you are interested or if you have questions about the position, you can contact our Treasurer, Deb Zimmermann, or myself. You can find our contact information further in this newsletter. If you have secretarial skills and would like to help us, please contact us. Gail Bolden our Editor is also currently serving as our secretary, the job of editor in-itself is quite demanding, so it would be nice if someone would volunteer to fill the role of secretary. Thank you for your consideration.

Tell us your story. We would like to hear from you, our readers, please share your stories with us, just submit your stories to our editor Gail Bolden. Please include photos. In this issue Bob Frenkel shares his experiences of becoming a Purple Martin landlord. Thanks Bob for giving us the opportunity to share your story.

Well, I've reached the end of this entry and again, I'm so very thankful for the hard work and dedication put forth by everyone, thank you for all that you do in support of Purple Martins. Always know that your cooperation is very much welcomed and appreciated. With that, enjoy this issue of *Purple Martin Chatter.*

On the cover...

This Purple Martin tower stands nearly 25' from top to bottom. It is home to around 30 pairs of martins each season, and it consists of 144 compartments, with 60 rooms opened annually. Access to the compartments is from the inside of the structure. At Christmastime, the tower compartments are each fitted with a light bulb, and a tree is fastened to the roof while their summer occupants are enjoying the good life in Brazil, unaware of what is taking place in their summer home. *-Bob Ring*

Just Three Weeks Away!

PBS Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo, February 9-11.

Friday 12-7p Saturday 9a-6p Sunday 10a-4p

Are you tired of winter yet? A trip to the *Garden & Landscape Expo* is a great way to celebrate all things spring! Before we start thinking of garden planning and the newest perennial hybrids, a Purple Martin enthusiast must assure that we are ready to greet the martins when they arrive in Wisconsin. For some of us, it can be as early as *late March*!

Did you clean out your cavities in the fall? If not, they should be cleaned out by 1 April. Do you have enough pine straw to pre-nest your cavities? Do you require any repairs to your housing? Have you requested your *2024 Troyer catalog*? So many questions, so little time!

Stop by our booth, and we will do our best to help you prepare and answer any questions that you may have. If you visit on Saturday, don't miss Dick's presentation, *Attracting and Retaining Purple Martins.* We will also be taking membership renewals, registering new members, and we may even have a Troyer's catalog to share.

-Ed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Deb Zimmermann

Savings $4000 Checking $1741.64

Happy New Year Everyone!

2024 WPMA Memberships

As a volunteer organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the Purple Martin population in Wisconsin, your annual membership helps defray some of the costs associated with running an organization. Current members receive four electronic issues of *Purple Martin Chatter* (which includes the End-of-Season Report on the health of the Wisconsin Purple Martin population).

If you know of a fellow WPMA member who did not receive this latest issue, please remind them to submit their annual dues to get back on the newsletter list!

Thank you for your support!

The following appeared in a recent issue of *The Purple Martin Update* and has been reprinted with permission.

My 40+ Years Trying to Attract Purple Martins

Bob Frenkel (Greenville, WI)

My quest started back in the 80's when we were at the dump and someone next to me was throwing out an old martin house. I took it and fixed it up and erected it on our 40-acre farm in the town of Corning, WI. Needless to say, we never attracted any martins.

We moved to the city of Merrill and there we built a house which had a large lot, so I built a new martin house. The house was made out of 6-inch pvc and moved up and down on a 2-inch pipe. Again, no martins. I then learned of the *Nature Society News* published from Griggsville, IL and subscribed to it for a few years.

That's when I bought my Trio Purple Martin house and erected it in place of my castle and started the tape of the *Dawn Song*. It was a cassette tape and not very efficient. After a few years we moved to Rib Mountain, WI and had an acre lot and set up the trio house there. Again, with no success.

Fast forward to 2017 and we bought a house in Greenville, WI. The house we picked has a preserve in the back of our acre plus yard. So, I thought this was ideal for martins especially since this was further south and martins in the area. I did set up the Trio again in my yard and started playing the cd of the *Dawn Song*. I finally had a few martins visit but no takers once again. I am also very diligent about House Sparrows and starlings. I then came across a T14 house for sale in Manitowoc and quickly went over to purchase it as it had a 3-inch Troyer pole and winch included plus 4 gourds which I promptly erected in my yard. The next season I learned of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association having a seminar at the Marsh Haven in Horicon which I eagerly attended. There I learned more about the requirements of the martins and also met a soon to be mentor, Brad Collar, who lives a few miles from me and has had a colony for many years. I took down the Trio martin house and replaced it with a couple of gourd racks. This is my current setup.

Fast forward to 2023 and I was finally lucky enough to attract 2 pair that fledged 7. Thanks to the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association, The Purple Martin Association, Brad Collar, Dick Nikolai and others for all their help and information. Already looking forward to 2024 and hope my martins safely return.

Mentoring is an important tenet of WPMAs mission to preserve and restore the Purple Martin population in Wisconsin. If you are interested in our mentoring program, contact any Board member for more information. -Ed.

-Photos courtesy Bob Frankel

MARTINFest2024

June 29, 2024 12:00 p—4:00 p

The Wisconsin Purple Martin Association (WPMA) invites you to join us for our annual fundraising festival to celebrate the beloved Purple Martin. MartinFest 2024 will be held at a private colony in St. Cloud, Wisconsin.

This 12-year old colony consists of 1 Northstar house (4 cavity) with 4 gourds, 1 T-14 with 4 gourds, 1 T-12 with 2 gourds, and a 10-gourd rack. The 2023 season offered 50 cavities that hosted 41 pair who fledged 157!

Join us for an afternoon of camaraderie and don't miss our popular Silent Auction!

Hosts Chuck and Annette Bartus
N9434 Cty Rd G
St. Cloud, Wisconsin 53079

For more info: Les (920) 889-0060 or Bob (920) 989-2771

AriensCo Colony Update

Board Member Bob Ring

Last year, I was proud to report about our successful first year of attracting and hosting nesting martins in our newly placed housing at AriensCo where I am employed. We are a leading manufacturer of snow blowers and lawn mowers located in Brillion, WI. In 2022, we hosted two pairs of SY martins, and since there were often 10 or more martins hanging around, hopes were high for our colony to expand in 2023. To provide more nesting opportunities, 4 Troyer gourds with Conley 2 tunnel entrances were added in Spring.

Conservation Specialist, Rachel Padour assisted with monitoring and banding this past season. Here she releases a SY male after banding.

A phone call on April 24th from my co-worker in the conservation arena indicated the season had begun when he spotted an ASY male. I later looked for myself and found that a female had arrived, and they were anxious to begin the 2023 season. Mother nature had other plans for these birds only a few days later, with a prolonged episode of cold and rain, which culminated with a snowstorm on May 1. I brought along crickets and mealworms in attempt to train our birds to accept supplemental feedings. However, the birds had left, apparently to join a roost of others within the vicinity. I searched for them during the remainder of the inclement weather, but they were nowhere to be seen, and never returned when weather conditions recovered.

It was quiet for a couple weeks until several martins arrived later in May. By Memorial Day, evidence of nest building was noted in one compartment in the T-14 and two in the new gourds. 8-10 martins were frequently seen around the housing. Egg laying soon commenced with our first eggs noted on our May 30th nest check. By June 9th, all 4 of the new Conley gourds had nests with eggs, making the gourds the preferred housing type, since none of the T-14 compartments yet had eggs. We noted that activity seemed to be going through the roof on our June 14th nest check, when we had a total of 23 eggs in 6 compartments, with 2 additional nests being built! The weather, however, turned excessively colder with overcast skies, smoke and haze, and daytime temperatures in the 50's, forcing the females to spend more time searching for food instead of incubating the eggs. To worsen matters, a male house sparrow moved in at this time.

A pair of SYs on the nest protecting their newly hatched.

Our June 16th nest check reversed the huge increase in eggs we had seen just two days prior. A SY-female was found dead on her new nest of eggs in her gourd. She weighed only 35 grams, so she died of starvation, unable to find food and incubate her eggs. In two additional nests, eggs were either beak pierced by the sparrow or were abandoned. I was able to trap and remove the male house sparrow in a compartment where he had destroyed the martin eggs. From there, things recovered with a new nest of eggs in the house noted on the 20th.

By June 21st, all eggs were laid for the season with 28 eggs total in 7 compartments. Just two days later, our first hatchling was noted, but was an only nestling, since the other eggs in this nest were addled. It wasn't until July 6th that two nests in the house yielded 3 new hatchlings each, bringing our total to 7. Sadly, one of the nests was lost by the next nest check, bringing us down to 4 nestlings.

The adults were banded in 3 nests, with one male being an ASY. All

other adults were SY's. One adult was a recapture from a colony 5 miles to the southeast, banded as a nestling there in 2022. The 4 young that survived were banded at 14-18 days of age. Thankfully these birds survived to fledge, so 2023 was not an entire loss for us, but definitely a setback.

The weather had a major impact on our colony in 2023. It was sad to see such a decline in our colony size since we were anticipating a major increase. Amazingly, we fledged 92 tree swallows from 124 eggs. We hosted no eastern bluebirds in 2023, the first season in four with none.

Other achievements for our 2023 conservation efforts include the Wildlife Habitat Council awarding us gold certification, with emphasis on our prairie oak savanna and forest projects, as well as our cavity nesting bird and bumblebee projects.

We also planted nearly 24,000 seedlings of 15 species which included white oak, red oak, sugar maple and tamarack. 2 deep marshes (totaling 1.2 acres) were also dug to create habitat for aquatic species. We also seeded 30 acres with a mix of 120 native flowers and grasses.

Our most exciting discovery was the nest of a Rusty Patched bumble bee on a mound in the woods in mid-August. The Rusty Patched bumble bee is federally endangered, and in my article last year, I noted that we had made the first discovery of the species within in the county. Our discovery of the nest was only the 6th in the state in over 20 years. Once activity ceased for the season, we worked with the state to excavate the nest for scientific research.

A martin egg that was repeatedly pierced by a male House Sparrow that tried overtaking the colony when the weather was cool and the adult martins were away from their nests in mid-June.

In September, we caught and tagged 100 monarchs.

So, 2023 was a busy year for us in all areas of conservation. We are anxious for 2024 activities to begin, and are hoping for a much better year for our martins!

-Photos Bob Ring

ASY Male with drooping wings, *time for action!*

Supplemental Feeding

Supplemental feeding is an important part of being a Purple Martin landlord, yet it is one facet that not all landlords practice. Truth be told, Wisconsin weather makes supplemental feeding a necessity. While it does take patience, it is worth the effort. There are many videos online that explain the simple process, but know that when you see perched birds with drooping wings, you can help get them through until insects start flying again.

Make this season the year you train your birds-you and your birds will be happy that you did! *-Ed.*

Man will help himself by first helping the birds. -J.L. Wade (author *Purple Martin, America's Most Wanted Bird*)

Wisconsin 2023 Purple Martin Season Report

Dick Nikolai

It is hard to imagine another year has passed quickly. My time with Purple Martins was extended during March 2023, viewing the Amazon's scenery and the special gift of its hosting 160,000 Purple Martins coming into a roost in the evening and flowing out from it in early morning. It was like a dream with suddenly being aware our Purple Martins may have been part of the concentration that I viewed and beat back to North America via an airplane. No time for preparation, for Wisconsin's Purple Martins came into the state on March 27 and continued its parade to over 100+ sites reporting to the Purple Martin Conservation Association's (PMCA) website with the final report of arrival of scouts on May 13. During that timeframe were many days (21) of tossing thousands of flying food bits or actual invertebrates extending well into May. Experienced a white snowfall on May 1 and saw the spring bringing many rainy days with windy conditions along with cool temperatures. Where did my rest and relaxation occur away from any stress? Guess seeing our families of Purple Martins arrive at your colony sites created the fuel behind my excitement of them being with us. They came, spent the summer, fledged young and stayed through early September until a front moved through carrying the last of them on their way for a long migration. No matter how much work or how much time was spent with them trying to keep their success a positive, we still miss them along with their morning music singing their presence. Hope all of you enjoy the culmination of our combined work in this document to reminisce and to realize our important role with them. Appreciate everyone's cooperation of getting the data to me even if I was pushy at times in November and December in seeking your collection of figures and comments. Now for the tweets and chortles.

We will start off with climate involving the aspects of precipitation and temperature which contribute to attributes for Purple Martins migrating northward into Wisconsin. The amount of daylight, insects or food resources, wind, direction of steering winds, major storms and a whole host of other factors contribute to this migration influx along with age, their past residency and whether they have built a pair bond traveling northward. As we try to reminisce of spring 2023, we were coming out of a mostly mild winter but had several major snow storms hitting us in mid to late March dumping at least ten or more inches in the Green Bay area including the Fox Cities.

For the areas around the state showing precipitation note **Figures 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, and 1f** (2023 precipitation is green line, the brown line being average, and red line being the lowest). For most of Wisconsin precipitation was normal to near normal from January to almost the end of February except for the La Crosse area which had near normal to above normal precipitation. That La Crosse precipitation trend caught on, for all the other areas going all the way to early June for all the sites shown on being above normal. After June, a downward trend of precipitation for most stations occurs until the present, except for the areas near Green Bay area which stay normal until early September when they go slightly below normal, Milwaukee area which stays near normal from June to mid-October to slightly below normal through November, and Stevens Point area which stays below normal until late October then is near normal through November.

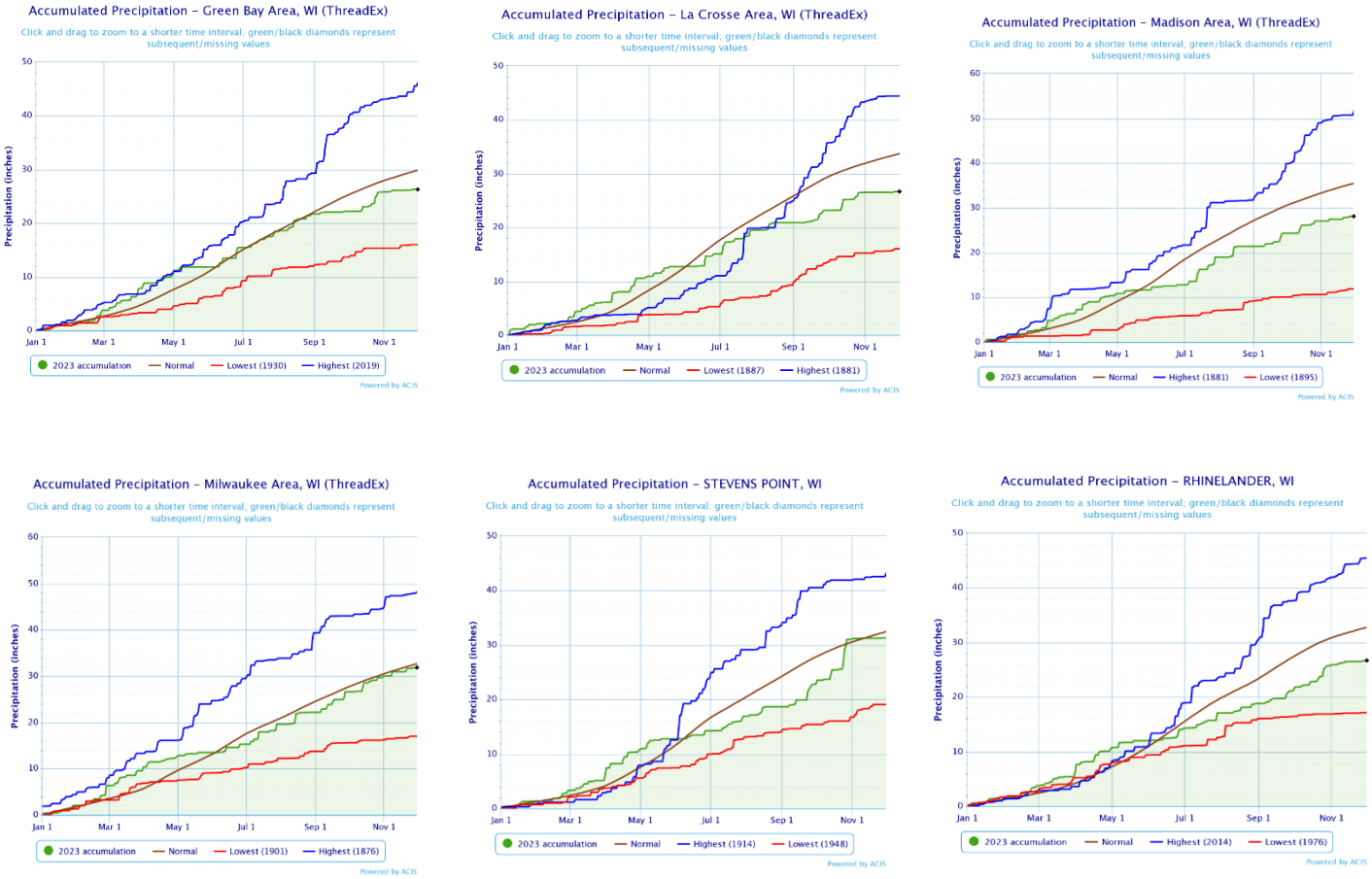


Figure 1 Precipitation left to right and then downward. **Figures 1a** Green Bay, **1b** La Crosse, **1c** Madison, **1d** Milwaukee, **1e** Stevens Point, & **1f** Rhinelander: Accumulated precipitation from the various cities from January 1 to December 1, 2023 taken from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service, Department of Commerce.

Am always looking on how insects are being affected by moisture or temperature. Insects supply the food chain and its impact on egg laying or young growing. Fewer insects may also stress our adults.

For the areas around the state showing temperature note Figures: 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, and 2f (2023 temperature is dark blue, gold, or brown area is average, red is the highest and light blue is the coldest). Temperatures from the figures indicate across Wisconsin we had up and down temperatures creating a kind of a *yo-yo* effect. Approximately seven to ten days were above normal, then seven to ten days of below normal, and finally with seven to ten days of near normal conditions. Not all periods occurred in that sequence but they did occur with some shorter and some longer in lengths. Note the highs in some places setting records and some lows almost doing the same. This *yo-yo* effect is one of the reasons for the addled eggs for the ASY's (after second year old adults-2+ years of age) and some SY's (second year adults-2022's born young) occurred. It also is one of the reasons why some eggs hatched, and others did not. When laying eggs martins do not need to start incubating until the second to the last egg is laid. This synchronizes the development normally occurring for the embryo inside the egg. When the adults need to feed themselves, they leave the nest exposed for their few minutes out but remember when it is windy and cold, insects are not numerous or easy to catch. Both items cause longer times out for the adults meaning more cooling of the eggs and stress on the adults. Stress comes as a loss of weight and impact from viability of both the sperm and egg. Less viability means more impacts to hatching, rearing, and vitality of the young affecting survival or being underweight taking longer to fledge and possible nest abandonment.

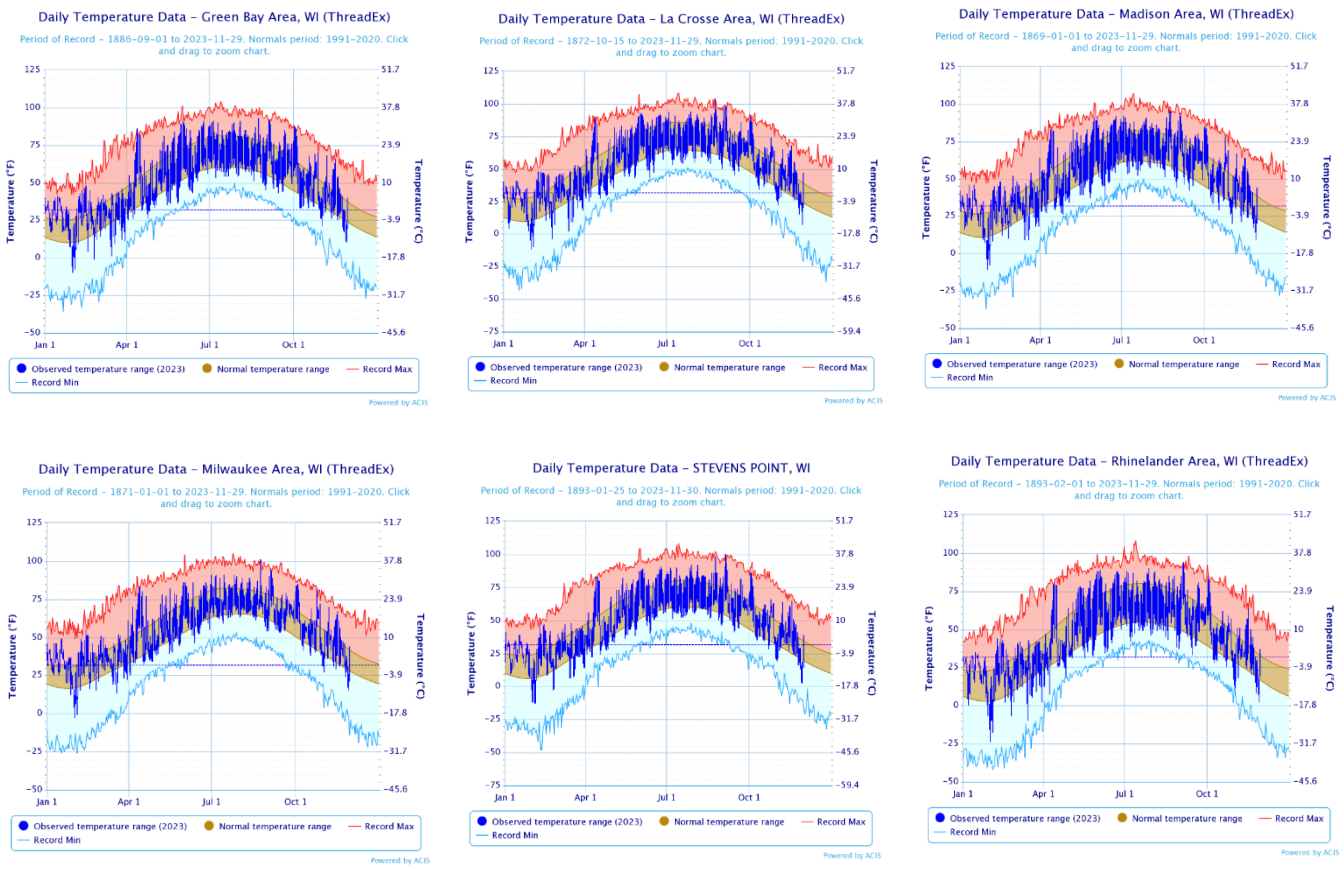


Figure 2 Temperature left to right and then downward. **Figures 2a** Green Bay, **2b** La Crosse, **2c** Madison, **2d** Milwaukee, **2e** Stevens Point, & **2f** Rhinelander. Temperatures from the various cities from January 1 to December 1, 2023 taken from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service, Department of Commerce.

The Milwaukee station may have some effects for temperatures from Lake Michigan for its waters are cold extending into the summer. This cooling effect carries onto the land along the lake. When easterly winds form from the lake, they may extend further inland depending on wind speeds. Other cities along Lake Michigan like Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Port Washington all can be affected when winds come off the lake causing a drop of temperature from five to twenty degrees. This is a unique stressor for the lake shore may limit numbers of eggs laid, young hatched, young fledged, insects, degree of wind chill, later nesting and many other items depending on the timing during the Purple Martin's stay.

Spring arrival for Wisconsin in 2023 came early from scout reports on March 26 at Middleton in Dane County (**Table 4** Data submitted to Dick Nikolai for Nesting) and followed up the following day at Montello in Marquette County (**Figure 4** Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) spring arrival dates for 2023 in Wisconsin). Then the rush progresses rapidly with the first report in the north on April 4 near Pound in Oconto County and to the southwest at La Crosse on April 7 in La Crosse County with the first report in the northwest part on April 9 at Rice Lake in Barron County.

Progression kept going throughout April when the last scout was reported in Buffalo County at Nelson followed by the first May scout on May 5 near Hortonville in Outagamie County. By the time of May 13, the final scout report was submitted from Oshkosh in Winnebago County. A total of **104 scout reports** from the PMCA Scout Report covered **39** counties as shown on **Table 1**. A total of **43 scout reports** were relayed in addition to the required data for the Statewide Wisconsin Purple Martin Report for 2023 to Dick Nikolai (**Figure 5**). Compiled was a total of **18** counties representing **57** reports. Many of the same people for both reports submitted their information. My thanks go out to all of you for your time and effort in the submissions.

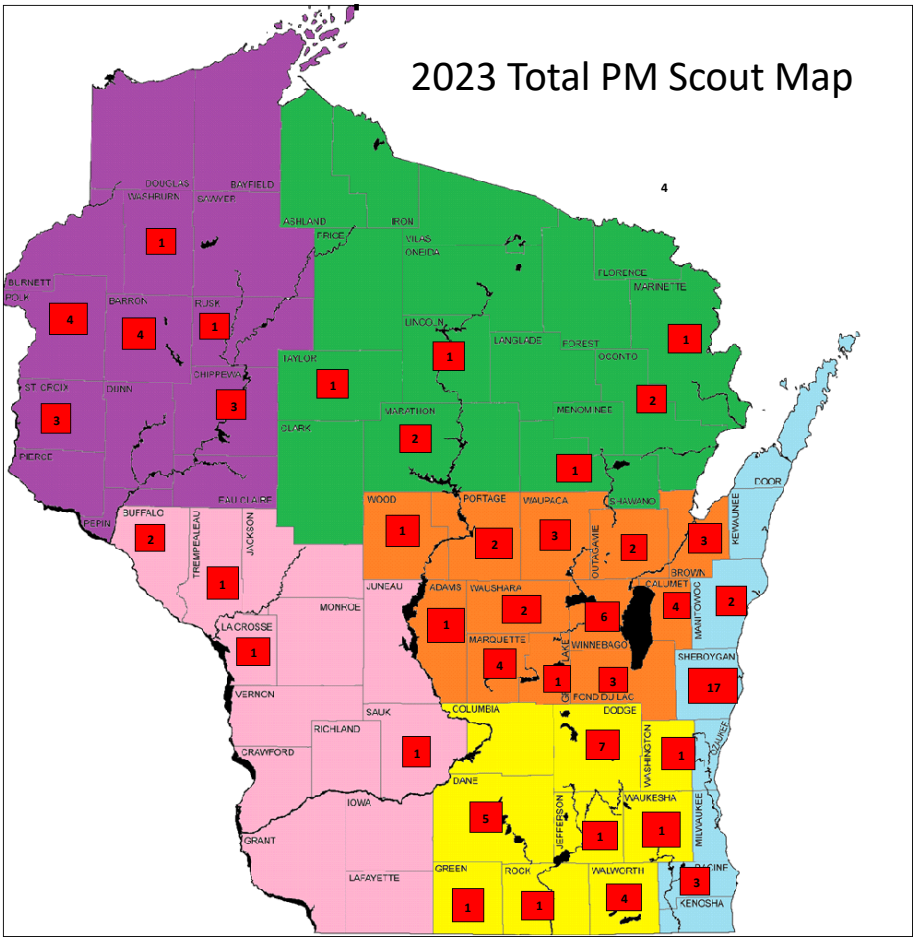


Figure 3 Wisconsin Purple Martin Scout Map for 2023 from Reports to the Purple Martin Conservation Association. Data then compiled by county by Dick Nikolai. Total of **104** colonies reported across Wisconsin.

Some of the comments relayed are as follows:

M. Nepal. Cool spring with lots of addled eggs due to it being extended to early June. Rest of the season it was fine.

B. Wallace. Lost 6 martins due to starvation even after feeding them in the spring through early May. Did not count eggs but counted young (514) in early July around the 4th. On cleanout found 3 dead young & 10 unhatched eggs.

M. Martin. As of July 1, 127 young hatched out of 140 eggs with another 32 eggs still not hatched. Estimate of 29 of the 32 would hatch for a grand total of 156 young hatching. No estimate for young fledging. No finding of any dead carcasses of young at the end when cleanouts were completed. Lots of sparrow problems due to the extended cold in May & early June.

B Thays. Public site visited showed young fledged early due to an abundance of insects at pond. All birds gone by Aug 1.

B Frenkel. First time landlord.

B Fanning. Early May had several days of rain, wind & cold causing 3 adults to die. Tried to feed martins but failed.

P. Kiel. Early part of nesting season was cold & snowy. Most eggs tended to hatch later than calculated (16 days) incubation. Gourds were the preferred housing.

K. Timmerick. Cold weather start but a very good season.

P & N Hutchinson. Cool spring extending into May and early June. Some young losses and many addled eggs. Last martins seen 8-21-2023.

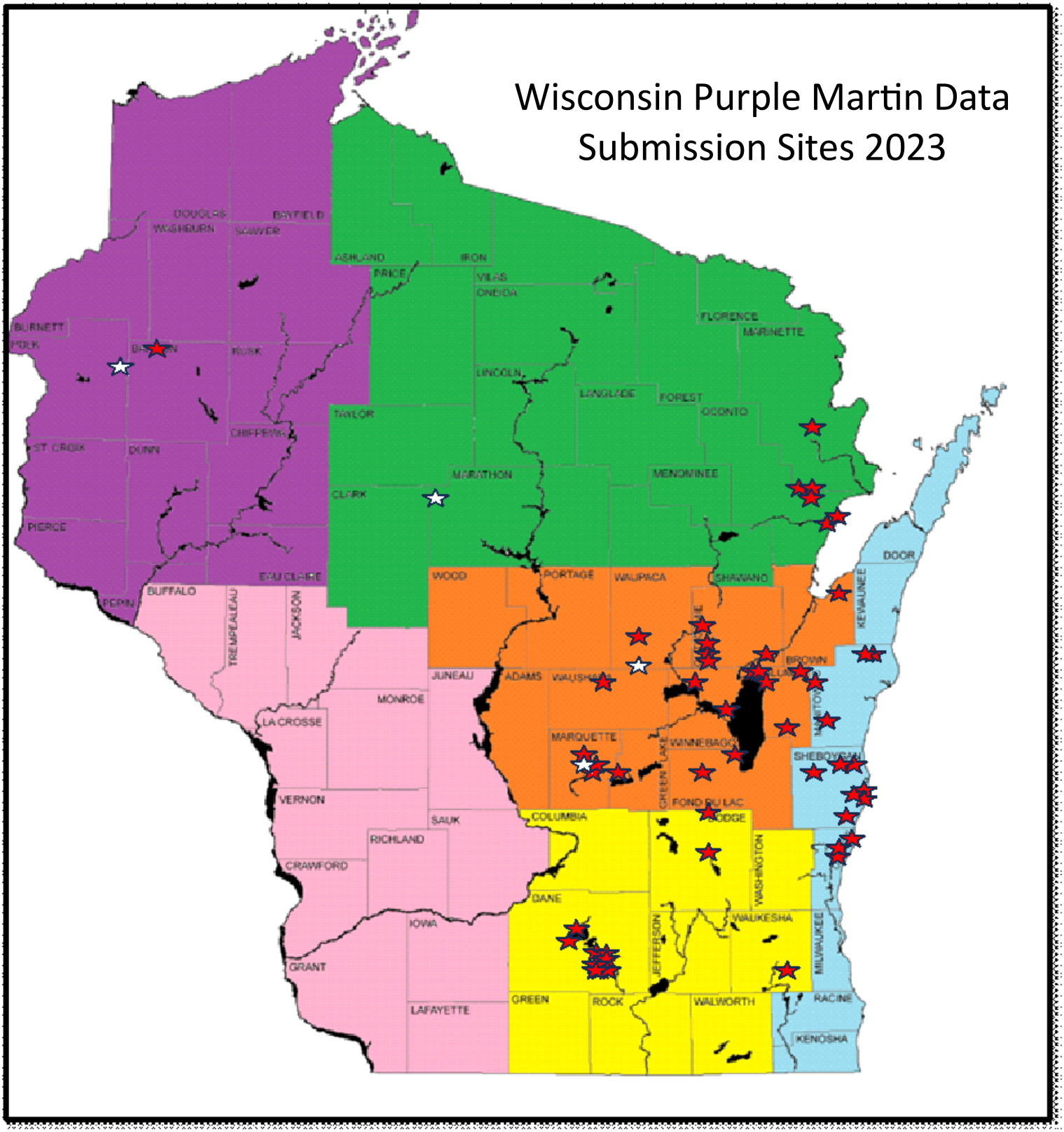


Figure 4 Map of Wisconsin showing where reported data for 2023 comes from landlords. Incomplete data sent is highlighted by white stars (4 sites) was not used for statewide information but appreciated with some information relayed in regional discussion and in **Table 3.** Red stars in 54 sites in 17 counties show ballpark locations of the individuals sending completed reports, of which one in Calumet County represents three separate locations at or near High Cliff State Park (HCSP) in Sherwood. Total regional colony reports (**Table 3**) for 2023 entailed **58 separate colony areas in 18 counties.**

Our great housing landlords in Wisconsin felt great responsibility for reporting Purple Martin scouts to the PMCA across the state in 2023 to a tune of 104 reports (2022—94 reports) across 39 counties (2022—38 counties) with an additional reporting of 21 first Second Year Males (SY-M) in 12 counties (**See Table 1 for combined reporting for various years for scouts and SY-M's and see Table 2 for combined reports by city and county only for scouts**). Statewide scout reports began for the PMCA on March 27 in Montello, March 31 in both Oregon and Lomira and ended with reports on May 5 in Hortonville, and May 13 at Oshkosh. SY-M's were first reported on May 4 at Trempealeau and at Fond du Lac on May 6 with the final report coming on June 4 at Plymouth.

Wisconsin Scout Report Numbers Compiled from Purple Martin Conservation Association Reports

	2023	2023	2022	2022	2021	2021	2020	2020	
Wisconsin Counties for Region	Scout Colonies Reported in Region	Scout Counties with martins	Scout Colonies Reported in Region	Scout Counties with martins	Scout Colonies Reported in Region	Scout Counties with martins	Scout Colonies Reported in Region	Scout Counties with martins	Wisconsin Counties for Region
14	16	6	10	4	14	6	12	5	14
12	32	12	30	12	31	10	23	11	12
13	5	4	6	6	4	4	5	5	13
16	8	6	9	5	7	5	8	5	16
9	21	8	21	8	18	7	15	8	9
8	22	3	18	3	21	4	23	4	8
Totals	104	39	94	38	95	36	86	38	Totals
72 Total Counties in Wisconsin									72 Total Counties in Wisconsin

Wisconsin First SY-M Report Numbers Compiled from Purple Martin Conservation Association Reports

	2023	2023	2022	2022	2021	2021	2020	2020	
Wisconsin Counties for Region	First SY-M's (Colonies) Reported in Region	First SY-M's Reported (by County) in Region	First SY-M Colonies Reported in Region	First SY-M's Reported (by County) in Region	First SY-M Colonies Reported in Region	First SY-M's Reported (by County) in Region	First SY-M Colonies Reported in Region	First SY-M's Reported (by County) in Region	Wisconsin Counties for Region
14	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	14
12	5	4	7	5	8	5	7	5	12
13	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
16	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	16
9	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	9
8	8	2	6	1	5	1	7	1	8
Totals	21	12	21	13	22	14	21	12	Totals
72 Total Counties in Wisconsin									72 Total Counties in Wisconsin

Table 1 Purple Martin Scout Arrival and Second Year Males Arrival Report to the Purple Martin Conservation Association from 2020 to 2023 for Wisconsin indicated by region and number of counties.

104 reports of Scout arrivals at PMCA for WI in 2023 (39 Counties) by date					
WI Counties	City	Date of Scout arrival 2023	WI Counties	City	Date of Scout arrival 2023
Winnebago	Oshkosh, WI	5/13/2023	Washington	West Bend, WI	4/13/2023
Outagamie	Hortonville, WI	5/5/2023	St. Croix	New Richmond, WI	4/13/2023
Buffalo	Nelson, WI	4/29/2023	Wood	Pittsville, WI	4/13/2023
Dane	Stoughton, WI	4/27/2023	Calumet	Hilbert, WI	4/13/2023
Dane	Stoughton, WI	4/27/2023	Waushara	Mount Morris, WI	4/13/2023
Racine	Racine, WI	4/25/2023	Dodge	Juneau, WI	4/13/2023
Calumet	Brillion, WI	4/24/2023	Sheboygan	Oostburg, WI	4/13/2023
Polk	Luck, WI	4/23/2023	Green Lake	Kingston, WI	4/13/2023
Sheboygan	Howards Grove, WI	4/23/2023	Buffalo	Fountain City, WI	4/12/2023
Dane	Madison, WI	4/22/2023	Marathon	Hatley, WI	4/12/2023
Sheboygan	Sheboygan, WI	4/22/2023	Walworth/Kenosha	GENOA CITY, WI	4/12/2023
Taylor	Rib Lake, WI	4/21/2023	Trempealeau	Trempealeau, WI	4/12/2023
Walworth	Whitewater, WI	4/20/2023	Dodge	Rubicon, WI	4/12/2023
Barron	Barron, WI	4/20/2023	Waupaca	Waupaca, WI	4/12/2023
Portage	Portage, WI	4/20/2023	Sheboygan	Sheboygan Falls, WI	4/12/2023
St. Croix	Somerset, WI	4/20/2023	Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac, WI	4/12/2023
Lincoln	Merrill, WI	4/20/2023	Marathon	Colby, WI	4/11/2023
Winnebago	OMRO, WI	4/20/2023	Shawano	Shawano, WI	4/11/2023
Calumet	Chilton, WI	4/19/2023	Sheboygan	Cascade, WI	4/11/2023
Walworth	Whitewater, WI	4/19/2023	Outagamie	Hortonville, WI	4/11/2023
Dodge	Mayville, WI	4/19/2023	Sheboygan	Oostburg, WI	4/11/2023
Sheboygan	Cedar Grove, WI	4/19/2023	Waukesha	Bass Bay Lake, Muskego, WI	4/11/2023
St. Croix	Hudson, WI	4/19/2023	Calumet	Sherwood, WI	4/11/2023
Green	Belleville, WI	4/19/2023	Fond du Lac	Marytown, WI	4/11/2023
Racine	Racine, WI	4/19/2023	Winnebago	Oshkosh, WI	4/11/2023
Polk	Frederic, WI	4/18/2023	Waupaca	Iola, WI	4/11/2023
Sheboygan	Cedar Grove, WI	4/17/2023	Chippewa	Bloomer, WI	4/11/2023
Chippewa	Jim falls, WI	4/16/2023	Sheboygan	Sheboygan Falls, WI	4/11/2023
Brown	New Franken, WI	4/16/2023	Sheboygan	Plymouth, WI	4/10/2023
Marquette	MONTELLO, WI	4/16/2023	Barron	Barronett, WI	4/10/2023
Walworth	Whitewater, WI	4/16/2023	Brown	New Franken, WI	4/10/2023
Sheboygan	Sheboygan Falls, WI	4/16/2023	Manitowoc	Mishicot, WI	4/10/2023
Manitowoc	MISHICOT, WI	4/15/2023	Adams	Oxford, WI	4/10/2023
Rusk	Ladysmith, WI	4/15/2023	Marinette	Crivitz, WI	4/9/2023
Dodge	Beaver Dam, WI	4/15/2023	Oconto	Little Suamico, WI	4/9/2023
Barron	Cumberland, WI	4/15/2023	Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac, WI	4/9/2023
Sheboygan	Sheboygan, WI	4/15/2023	Barron	Rice lake, WI	4/9/2023
Brown	Denmark, WI	4/15/2023	Polk	Cumberland, WI	4/9/2023
Dodge	Juneau, WI	4/15/2023	Portage	Portage, WI	4/8/2023
Polk	Amery, WI	4/15/2023	Sauk	Prairie du Sac, WI	4/8/2023
Sheboygan	Oostburg, WI	4/15/2023	Waupaca	Waupaca, WI	4/8/2023
Rock	Janesville, WI	4/15/2023	Sheboygan	Elkhart Lake, WI	4/8/2023
Waushara	Wild Rose, WI	4/15/2023	Dodge	Neosho, WI	4/7/2023
Marquette	Harrisville, WI	4/15/2023	La Crosse	La Crosse, WI	4/7/2023
Winnebago	Omro, WI	4/14/2023	Oconto/Marinette	Pound, WI	4/4/2023
Racine	Burlington, WI	4/14/2023	Jefferson	Fort Atkinson, WI	4/3/2023
Chippewa	Bloomer, WI	4/14/2023	Marquette	Montello, WI	4/3/2023
Winnebago	Town of Wolf River, WI	4/14/2023	Dane	OREGON, WI	4/1/2023
Sheboygan	Cedar Grove, WI	4/14/2023	Dane	Oregon, WI	3/31/2023
Washburn	Spooner, WI	4/14/2023	Dodge	Lomira, WI	3/31/2023
Winnebago	Neenah, WI	4/14/2023	Sheboygan	Cedar Grove, WI	3/30/2023
Sheboygan	Oostburg, WI	4/14/2023	Marquette	Montello, WI	3/27/2023

Table 2 Purple Martin Scout Arrival Report to the Purple Martin Conservation Association for 2023 showing County and Regions (by color) for Wisconsin.

For the Wisconsin Regional reports (See **Table 2**) we will start with the **Northwestern Barrens and Forest** (NWBF) where two reports came in the process with one complete set of data. First martins to arrive came on April 9 with the other report on April 10. These two colonies had 150 pairs that hatched over 4.5 young per active cavity. The full data report for the site fledged over 150 young with a great production rate of 90% of its eggs making it to fledging at a rate of 4.29 young fledged per nest while the other was incomplete for no data after July 4. In the **Northeast Forest** (NEF) a total of seven reports came with six of them being complete. Arrival of martins came first on April 3 with the last on April 19. The lone incomplete data was like the NWBF in that the data was only through July 4 with fear of disturbing young that may fledge. Over 200 pairs laid over 1000 eggs which had an average of over 5 eggs per nest yielded over 80.5% of its eggs hatching with an overall success of 76% of fledging young from eggs or 3.58 young per nest or a total of 659 able to fly. The disparity there may be due to lingering cool temperatures experienced during May and early June that may have made eggs addled or young hatch that cooled and died.

As has been the case since requests were solicited since 2020 no reporting of any colonies in the **Southwest Driftless** (SWD) region were made in 2023. Hopefully in the future some of the landlords will come forward with their information. The **Central Agricultural, Wetland and Forest** (CAWF) region had 23 individuals reporting with 21 sending complete data requested. Of the two incomplete one had unforeseen problems after reporting its arrival of martins and the other did not have vertical lowered housing which will be corrected in 2024. Over *450 pairs* of martins were listed with the official listing of over *2000 eggs* being laid for a rate of *4.96* eggs being produced per nest. This yielded almost 1700 hatchlings for a hatch rate of nearly 83%. When it came to fledging young it was over 74% from eggs to fledge for a rate of *3.74 young* per nest attaining flight or over *1500 young*.

Both the **Southern Prairie and Savanna** (SPS) region had 12 sites and the **Lake Michigan** (LM) region had 14 sites with all their data submittals being present. **SPS** region had *197 pairs* laying just over *1000 eggs* that hatched at *5.25 young* per nest or a total of *838 young* that eventually fledged *789 young* at a rate of *4.13 young per nest* with a fledged rate of 78.66%. The LM region had *385 pairs* producing *1680 eggs* that hatched *1393 young* or *3.62 young* per nest with a fledged rate of eggs to flight of over 80% or 3.51 young fledged per nest. Impacts again showed cool wet weather having impacts along the way in the LM either by have addled eggs or young affected bringing numbers down compared to the SPS which may have had more stable weather or slightly warmer conditions that did not interfere as much as the areas to the north and east.

When we combine the full 2023 data set (See **Table 4**) requested for all of Wisconsin, there were *54 sites in 17 Wisconsin counties* (See **Figure 3**), (See **Table 3** for 2022—*43 sites in 18 counties*) that contributed *1211 pair* (2022—998 pairs) residing within the state. Out of that total *1189 pairs contributed nests* (2022—971 pairs) that had *5748 eggs* (2022-4855 eggs laid) being laid for a per nest rate of *4.83 eggs* (2022—5.00 eggs per nest). The other pairs were either affected by stress from weather (cool, wind, wet weather, hot weather extremes, or drought), SY's inexperience pairing up with no eggs laid, or ASY's stressed by loss of weight from migration combined with the rigors of weather making their bodies not produce viable eggs or sperm for fertilizations. From the eggs that were laid in 2023, *4786 young hatched* (2022—4068 young hatched) at a rate of *4.03 per nest* (2022—4.04 per nest) that yielded a rate of *3.76 young fledged* (2022—3.82 young fledged) per nest or *4475 young* (2022—3851 young) at a rate of 77.85% (2022—79.32%) from eggs to flight. Not bad considering the elements that we faced across Wisconsin from a delayed spring that was cool, moist, and windy but changed to a hot and dry set of circumstances that were more drought-like in the south half of the state while the north half portion of the state had delayed dry weather in July to early August. Certainly, microhabitats come to play throughout Wisconsin creating an important aspect for the entire population of Purple Martins to adapt and find sites viable for their stay.

Regional (Northeast Forest) Wisconsin Reports for 2023 — Data missing from reports by site

Place of housing	County	1st martin	Pairs	Nests	Nests with eggs	eggs laid	Eggs/nest	Hatched	Hatched/nest	% Hatch	Fledge	Fledged/nest	% Fledged	Fledged from eggs	Last Fledgling
Oconto City Marina	Oconto	Unknown	22	22	22	111	5.05	93	4.23	83.78%	86	3.91	92.47%	77.48%	Unknown
Oconto City Park	Oconto	Unknown	18	18	18	88	4.89	80	4.44	90.91%	78	4.33	97.50%	88.64%	Unknown
Klondike	Oconto	4/8/2023	9	9	9	36	4.00	33	3.67	91.67%	32	3.56	96.97%	88.89%	8/1/2023
Crivitz	Marinette	4/7/2023	48	48	48	247	5.15	175	3.65	70.85%	164	3.42	93.71%	66.40%	7/20/2023
Klondike	Oconto	4/8/2023	66	66	60	305	5.15	256	4.27	82.85%	246	4.10	96.09%	79.61%	8/18/2023
Lena	Oconto	4/19/2023	16	16	14	68	4.86	55	3.93	80.88%	53	3.79	96.36%	77.94%	8/15/2023
*Colby	Marathon	4/11/2023	37	37	37	172	4.65	156	4.22	90.70%		0.00	0.00%	0.00%	Unknown
Total of 7 sites with (*)one having incomplete data only being monitored until July 1 (white star).		1st Martin 4-03-2023	175	175	171	853	5.02	692	4.05	80.56%	659	3.85	95.23%	76.72%	Last Fledge 8/18/2023

Regional (Northwestern Barrens & Forest) Wisconsin Reports for 2023 — Data missing from reports by site

Place of housing	County	1st martin	Pairs	Nests	Nests with eggs	eggs laid	Eggs/nest	Hatched	Hatched/nest	% Hatch	Fledge	Fledged/nest	% Fledged	Fledged from eggs	Last Fledgling
*Cumberland	Polk	4/5/2023	114	114	114		0.00	514	4.51	#DIV/0!		0.00	0.00%	#DIV/0!	Unknown
Barronett	Barron	4/10/2023	36	36	36	170	4.72	167	4.64	98.24%	153	4.25	91.62%	90.00%	Unknown
Total of 2 sites with (*)one having incomplete data for the season through July 4 (white star).		1st Martin 4-10-2023	36	36	36	170	4.72	167	4.64	98.24%	153	4.25	91.62%	90.00%	Unknown

Regional (Southwest Driftless Zone) Wisconsin Reports for 2023 — No reports

Place of housing	County	1st martin	Pairs	Nests	Nests with eggs	eggs laid	Eggs/nest	Hatched	Hatched/nest	% Hatch	Fledge	Fledged/nest	% Fledged	Fledged from eggs	Last Fledgling
No reports from anyone in 2023 even though a few were collected.															
Total of 0 sites submitted		1st Martin	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	Last Fledge

Regional (Central Agricultural, Wetland & Forest Zone) Wisconsin Reports for 2023 — Data missing from reports by site

Place of housing	County	1st martin	Pairs	Nests	Nests with eggs	eggs laid	Eggs/nest	Hatched	Hatched/nest	% Hatch	Fledge	Fledged/nest	% Fledged	Fledged from eggs	Last Fledgling
High Cliff SP--Sherwood (3 sites)	Calumet	4/11/2023	76	76	72	350	4.86	271	3.76	77.43%	196	2.72	72.32%	56.00%	8/10/2023
Hortonville 1	Outagamie	4/11/2023	45	45	45	209	4.64	163	3.73	80.38%	155	3.44	92.26%	74.16%	8/11/2023
Appleton (Along Fox River)	Outagamie	4/22/2023	6	6	6	32	5.33	27	4.50	84.38%	27	4.50	100.00%	84.38%	8/1/2023
Menasha 1	Winnebago	Unknown	16	16	16	99	6.19	86	5.38	86.87%	70	4.38	81.40%	70.71%	8/7/2023
Menasha 2	Winnebago	Unknown	11	11	11	54	4.91	52	4.73	96.30%	51	4.64	98.08%	94.44%	8/7/2023
Montello	Marquette	4/8/2023	44	44	43	221	5.02	200	4.55	90.50%	188	4.27	94.00%	85.07%	8/4/2023
Hortonville 2	Outagamie	4/27/2023	4	4	4	20	5.00	20	5.00	100.00%	16	4.00	80.00%	80.00%	7/8 1/2023
Dexter/Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac	4/5/2023	30	30	30	153	5.10	125	4.30	84.31%	110	3.67	85.27%	71.90%	8/18/2023
Eldorado/Rosendale	Fond du Lac	5/10/2023	6	6	6	25	4.17	14	2.33	56.00%	14	2.33	100.00%	56.00%	8/10/2023
Harrisville	Marquette	4/15/2023	14	14	14	86	6.14	80	5.71	93.02%	80	5.71	100.00%	93.02%	7/19/2023
New Franken	Brown	4/16/2023	22	22	22	110	5.00	90	4.09	81.82%	88	4.00	97.78%	80.00%	Unknown
Lake Puckaway Park	Marquette	4/15/2023	12	12	12	71	5.92	67	5.58	94.37%	61	5.08	91.04%	85.92%	Unknown
Buffalo Lake (Sunset Drive)	Marquette	4/8/2023	28	28	28	166	5.93	153	5.46	92.17%	148	5.29	96.73%	89.16%	Unknown
Wild Rose	Waushara	4/15/2023	23	23	23	136	5.91	100	4.35	73.53%	96	4.17	96.00%	70.59%	8/10/2023
Winneconne	Winnebago	Unknown	6	6	6	33	5.50	31	5.17	93.94%	24	4.00	77.42%	72.73%	7/8 1/2023
UW-Oshkosh	Winnebago	5/10/2023	2	1	1	3	3.00	2	2.00	66.67%	1	1.00	50.00%	33.33%	8/16/2023
Waupaca	Waupaca	4/12/2023	30	30	30	133	4.60	122	4.07	88.41%	121	4.03	99.18%	87.63%	Unknown
New London	Outagamie	4/15/2023	20	20	20	70	3.50	53	2.65	75.71%	52	2.60	98.11%	74.29%	8/23/2023
Hortonville 3	Outagamie	5/10/2023	2	2	2	8	4.00	8	4.00	100.00%	7	3.50	87.50%	87.50%	Unknown
St. Anna	Calumet	Unknown	9	9	9	34	3.78	16	1.78	47.06%	15	1.67	93.75%	44.12%	Unknown
Ariens--Brillion	Calumet	Unknown	8	8	7	28	3.50	7	0.88	25.00%	4	0.57	57.14%	14.29%	Unknown
*Montello	Marquette	3/27/2023					#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	Unknown
*Waupaca	Waupaca/Waushara	4/8/2023	48				#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	Unknown
Total of 25 sites submitted with (*)two incomplete (white stars). One reporting only arrival time due to unforeseen circumstances and the other arrival time and total pairs.		1st Martin 3/27/2023	414	413	407	2046	5.03	1696	4.17	82.89%	1524	3.74	89.86%	74.45%	Last Fledge 9/10/2023

Regional (Southern Prairie & Savanna Zone) Wisconsin Reports for 2023 — All Data Requested & Reported

Place of housing	County	1st martin	Pairs	Nests	Nests with eggs	eggs laid	Eggs/nest	Hatched	Hatched/nest	% Hatch	Fledge	Fledged/nest	% Fledged	Fledged from eggs	Last Fledgling
Middleton	Dane	3/26/2023	9	9	9	43	4.78	33	3.67	76.74%	32	3.56	96.97%	74.42%	8/17/2023
Waupun--Marsh Haven	Dodge & Fond du Lac	Unknown	35	35	33	176	5.33	118	3.58	67.05%	106	3.21	89.83%	60.23%	8/6/2023
McFarland--Babcock	Dane	4/15/2023	12	12	12	68	5.67	61	5.08	89.71%	61	5.08	100.00%	89.71%	Unknown
Oregon (Lumbler-TN of Dunn)	Dane	4/15/2023	12	12	12	55	4.92	45	3.75	76.27%	38	3.17	84.44%	64.41%	Unknown
Madison	Dane	5/1/2023	7	7	3	12	4.00	11	1.57	91.67%	11	3.67	100.00%	91.67%	Unknown
Oregon	Dane	4/1/2023	21	21	21	126	6.00	124	5.90	98.41%	118	5.62	95.16%	93.65%	Unknown
McFarland--Fish Camp Boat Launch	Dane	4/7/2023	13	13	13	65	5.00	63	4.85	96.92%	63	4.85	100.00%	96.92%	Unknown
McFarland--Fish Camp-Yahara River	Dane	4/7/2023	13	13	13	69	4.62	49	3.77	81.67%	49	3.77	100.00%	81.67%	Unknown
Home-Oregon	Dane	4/15/2023	12	12	12	59	4.92	54	4.50	91.53%	53	4.42	98.15%	89.83%	Unknown
Netherwood-Oregon-Village	Dane	4/15/2023	18	18	18	102	5.67	83	4.61	81.37%	78	4.33	93.98%	76.47%	Unknown
Muskego	Waukesha	4/11/2023	13	13	13	69	5.31	60	4.62	86.96%	59	4.54	98.33%	85.51%	Unknown
Juneau	Dodge	4/13/2023	32	32	32	164	5.13	137	4.28	83.54%	121	3.78	88.32%	73.78%	8/2/2023
Total of 12 sites submitted with all data.		1st Martin 3/26/2023	197	197	191	1003	5.25	833	4.35	83.55%	785	4.13	94.15%	78.66%	Last Fledge 8/17/2023

Regional (Lake Michigan Zone) Wisconsin Reports for 2023 — All Data Requested & Reported

Place of housing	County	1st martin	Pairs	Nests	Nests with eggs	eggs laid	Eggs/nest	Hatched	Hatched/nest	% Hatch	Fledge	Fledged/nest	% Fledged	Fledged from eggs	Last Fledgling
Sheboygan Falls 3	Sheboygan	Unknown	27	27	27	106	3.93	55	2.04	51.89%	53	1.96	96.36%	50.00%	Unknown
Port Washington	Ozaukee	Unknown	21	21	21	104	4.95	74	3.52	71.15%	68	3.24	91.89%	65.38%	8/1/2023
Sheboygan Falls 1	Sheboygan	4/16/2023	15	15	15	30	5.33	53	3.53	66.25%	51	3.40	96.23%	63.75%	Unknown
Plymouth-Generations	Sheboygan	4/10/2023	1	1	1	5	5.00	5	5.00	100.00%	5	5.00	100.00%	100.00%	Unknown
Jetzer's Lake	Sheboygan	Unknown	8	8	8	34	4.25	19	2.38	55.88%	19	2.38	100.00%	55.88%	Unknown
Mishicot 1	Manitowoc	4/10/2023	133	133	133	515	3.90	451	3.69	94.61%	476	3.58	96.95%	91.71%	Unknown
Sheboygan Falls 2	Sheboygan	4/12/2023	34	34	34	131	3.85	79	2.32	60.31%	75	2.21	94.94%	57.25%	8/2/2023
Cedar Grove	Sheboygan	4/14/2023	40	40	40	174	4.35	164	4.10	94.25%	162	4.05	98.78%	93.10%	8/27/2023
Harrington Beach State Park--Belgium	Ozaukee	4/13/2023	12	12	12	70	5.83	68	5.67	97.14%	67	5.58	98.53%	95.71%	8/25/2023
Mishicot 2	Manitowoc	4/15/2023	5	5	5	23	4.60	18	3.60	78.26%	15	3.00	83.33%	65.22%	7/8 1/2023
Port Washington 2	Ozaukee	Unknown	12	12	12	57	4.75	36	3.00	63.16%	36	3.00	100.00%	63.16%	8/6/2023
Collins (Nature Center)	Manitowoc	Unknown	5	5	5	18	3.60	16	3.20	88.89%	14	2.80	87.50%	77.78%	Unknown
Long Lake	Manitowoc	Unknown	28	28	28	159	5.68	125	4.46	78.62%	121	4.32	96.80%	76.10%	Unknown
Howards Grove	Sheboygan	4/15/2023	44	44	44	200	4.55	190	4.32	95.00%	188	4.27	98.95%	94.00%	8/6/2023
Total of 14 sites submitted with all the data.		1st Martin 4-10-2023	385	385	385	1630	4.36	1393	3.62	82.52%	1350	3.51	96.91%	80.36%	Last Fledge 8/18/2023

Table 3 *Wisconsin Regional Data for 2023* showing complete and incomplete reports for 57 sites covering 19 counties scattered throughout the state.

Statewide Wisconsin Reports for 2022

Place of housing	County	1st martin	Pairs	Nests	Nests with eggs	eggs laid	Eggs/ nest	Hatched	Hatched/ nest	% Hatch	Fledge	Fledged/ nest	% Fledged	Fledged from eggs	Last Fledgling
Sherwood (3 sites)	Calumet	4/5/2022	58	58	52	257	4.94	208	4.00	80.93%	162	3.12	77.88%	63.04%	8/12/2022
Hortonville	Outagamie	4/10/2022	35	35	35	197	5.63	156	4.46	79.19%	151	4.31	96.79%	76.65%	8/27/2022
Appleton	Outagamie	4/15/2022	6	6	6	32	5.33	27	4.50	84.38%	27	4.50	100.00%	84.38%	8/1/2022
Menasha	Winnebago	Unknown	17	17	17	114	6.71	95	5.59	83.33%	90	5.29	94.74%	78.95%	9/1/2022
Menasha 2	Winnebago	Unknown	10	10	10	51	5.10	48	4.80	94.12%	48	4.80	100.00%	94.12%	8/13/2022
Montello	Marquette	5/6/2022	51	51	51	254	4.98	221	4.33	87.01%	217	4.25	98.19%	85.43%	8/3/2022
Hortonville	Outagamie	5/5/2022	4	4	2	11	2.75	9	2.25	81.82%	9	2.25	100.00%	81.82%	8/10/2022
Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac	5/13/2022	24	24	24	133	5.54	115	4.79	86.47%	112	4.67	97.39%	84.21%	7/27/2022
Harrisville	Marquette	4/15/2022	14	14	14	81	5.79	74	5.29	91.36%	71	5.07	95.95%	87.65%	7/18/2022
Montello	Marquette	4/6/2022	24	24	24	113	4.71	103	4.29	91.15%	99	4.13	96.12%	87.61%	Unknown
Lake Puckaway Park	Marquette	4/19/2022	16	16	16	88	5.50	76	4.75	86.36%	74	4.63	97.37%	84.09%	7/24/2022
Buffalo Lake (Sunset Drive)	Marquette	4/12/2022	26	26	26	143	5.50	128	4.92	89.51%	125	4.81	97.66%	87.41%	7/27/2022
Wild Rose	Waushara	4/12/2022	23	23	23	125	5.43	90	3.91	72.00%	76	3.30	84.44%	60.80%	Unknown
Winneconnee	Winnebago	4/19/2022	3	3	3	15	5.00	15	5.00	100.00%	14	4.67	93.33%	93.33%	7/30/2022
Brooks (McGinnis Lake)	Adams	4/10/2022	12	12	12	65	5.42	60	5.00	92.31%	59	4.92	98.33%	90.77%	7/27/2022
Oconto City Marina	Oconto	Unknown	21	21	21	132	6.29	75	3.57	56.82%	73	3.48	97.33%	55.30%	8/9/2022
Oconto City Park	Oconto	Unknown	25	25	19	97	5.11	73	2.92	75.26%	70	2.80	95.89%	72.16%	8/8/2022
Lena	Oconto	4/21/2022	13	13	13	46	3.54	43	3.31	93.48%	40	3.08	93.02%	86.96%	8/8/2022
Crivitz	Marinette	4/11/2022	53	53	53	248	4.68	179	3.38	72.18%	176	3.32	98.32%	70.97%	Unknown
Lena	Oconto	4/1/2022	61	69	61	312	4.52	250	3.62	80.13%	239	3.46	95.60%	76.60%	8/8/2022
Middleton	Dane	4/11/2022	11	11	11	62	5.64	56	5.09	90.32%	54	4.91	96.43%	87.10%	8/1/2022
Waupun	Dodge & Fond du Lac line	Unknown	40	40	40	221	5.53	168	4.20	76.02%	115	2.88	68.45%	52.04%	Unknown
Belleville	Dane/Green Line	4/20/2022	16	16	16	74	4.63	60	3.75	81.08%	57	3.56	95.00%	77.03%	7/24/2022
McFarland	Dane	4/4/2022	12	12	12	67	5.58	58	4.83	86.57%	58	4.83	100.00%	86.57%	Unknown
Lussier-TN of Dunn	Dane	4/21/2022	9	9	9	47	5.22	40	4.44	85.11%	40	4.44	100.00%	85.11%	Unknown
Bergamont-Oregon	Dane	4/21/2022	9	9	9	49	5.44	43	4.78	87.76%	43	4.78	100.00%	87.76%	Unknown
Home-Oregon	Dane	4/30/2022	6	6	6	30	5.00	26	4.33	86.67%	26	4.33	100.00%	86.67%	Unknown
Netherwood-Oregon	Dane	4/1/2022	18	18	18	91	5.06	82	4.56	90.11%	82	4.56	100.00%	90.11%	Unknown
Muskego	Waukesha	5/24/2022	9	9	8	40	4.44	39	4.33	97.50%	39	4.33	100.00%	97.50%	8/5/2022
Juneau	Dodge	4/16/2022	14	14	14	68	4.86	53	3.79	77.94%	51	3.64	96.23%	75.00%	7/30/2022
Sheboygan Falls	Sheboygan	4/23/2022	25	25	25	114	4.56	74	2.96	64.91%	70	2.80	94.59%	61.40%	7/31/2022
Port Washington (Afterglow Farms)	Ozaukee	Unknown	24	24	24	118	4.92	110	4.58	93.22%	104	4.33	94.55%	88.14%	8/6/2022
Plymouth	Sheboygan	4/23/2022	5	5	5	27	5.40	27	5.40	100.00%	26	5.20	96.30%	96.30%	Unknown
Plymouth (2)	Sheboygan	Unknown	1	1	1	4	4.00	3	3.00	75.00%	3	3.00	100.00%	75.00%	Unknown
Jetzers Lake	Sheboygan	Unknown	2	2	2	5	2.50	5	2.50	100.00%	5	2.50	100.00%	100.00%	Unknown
Kohler Andrea State Park, Sheboygan (1)	Sheboygan	No pairs 2022	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	No pairs 2022
Mishicot	Manitowoc	4/11/2022	141	141	133	593	4.21	531	3.77	89.54%	510	3.62	96.05%	86.00%	8/25/2022
Sheboygan Falls	Sheboygan	4/5/2022	36	36	36	156	4.33	148	4.11	94.87%	145	4.03	97.97%	92.95%	9/3/2022
Cedar Grove	Sheboygan	Unknown	39	39	39	175	4.49	169	4.33	96.57%	169	4.33	100.00%	96.57%	Unknown
Harrington Beach State Park, Belgium	Ozaukee	Unknown	12	12	12	54	4.50	49	4.08	90.74%	49	4.08	100.00%	90.74%	Unknown
Mishicot (2)	Manitowoc	5/14/2022	1	1	1	6	6.00	6	6.00	100.00%	6	6.00	100.00%	100.00%	8/3/2022
Newton	Manitowoc	4/15/2022	16	18	16	77	4.28	62	3.44	80.52%	60	3.33	96.77%	77.92%	8/6/2022
Racine	Racine	4/15/2022	56	55	52	263	4.78	214	3.89	81.37%	207	3.76	96.73%	78.71%	8/23/2022
(1) Housing had no purple martins nesting in 2022. (2) First year of colony having purple martins staying. (Total of 48 sites in 18 Counties)		1st Martin 4-01-2022	998	1007	971	4855	5.00	4068	4.04	83.79%	3851	3.82	94.67%	79.32%	Last Fledge 9/03/2022

Table 4 Statewide summary for **2022** for all of Wisconsin. Data submitted was complete for 43 reports comprising of **998** total pairs, **971** total nests with eggs. **4855** eggs laid, **4068** young hatched from eggs and **3851** fledged young. Martins arrived on *April 1, 2022* with the last known fledgling taking place around *September 3*. Over **79%** of the young fledged from eggs adding to the population of **3851 young** considering the impacts of the weather and environment.

Statewide Wisconsin Reports for 2023

Place of housing	County	1st martin	Pairs	Nests	Nests with eggs	eggs laid	Eggs/ nest	Hatched	Hatched/ nest	% Hatch	Fledge	Fledged/ nest	% Fledged	Fledged from eggs	Last Fledgling
High Cliff SP--Sherwood (3 Sites)	Calumet	4/11/2023	76	76	72	350	4.86	271	3.76	77.43%	196	2.72	72.32%	56.00%	8/10/2023
New Franken	Brown	4/16/2023	22	22	22	110	5.00	90	4.09	81.82%	88	4.00	97.78%	80.00%	Unknown
Hortonville 1	Outagamie	4/11/2023	45	45	45	209	4.64	168	3.73	80.38%	155	3.44	92.26%	74.16%	8/11/2023
Appleton (Along Fox River Parks)	Outagamie	4/22/2023	6	6	6	32	5.33	27	4.50	84.38%	27	4.50	100.00%	84.38%	8/1/2023
Menasha 1	Winnebago	Unknown	16	16	16	99	6.19	86	5.38	86.87%	70	4.38	81.40%	70.71%	8/7/2023
Menasha 2	Winnebago	Unknown	11	11	11	54	4.91	52	4.73	96.30%	51	4.64	98.08%	94.44%	8/7/2023
Montello	Marquette	4/3/2023	44	44	43	221	5.14	200	4.65	90.50%	188	4.37	94.00%	85.07%	8/4/2023
Hortonville 2	Outagamie	4/27/2023	4	4	4	20	5.00	20	5.00	100.00%	16	4.00	80.00%	80.00%	7/31/2023
Dexter/Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac	4/9/2023	30	30	30	153	5.10	129	4.30	84.31%	110	3.67	85.27%	71.90%	8/18/2023
Eldorado/Rosendale	Fond du Lac	5/10/2023	6	6	6	25	4.17	14	2.33	56.00%	14	2.33	100.00%	56.00%	9/10/2023
Harrisville	Marquette	4/15/2023	14	14	14	86	6.14	80	5.71	93.02%	80	5.71	100.00%	93.02%	7/19/2023
Wild Rose	Waushara	4/15/2023	23	23	23	136	5.91	100	4.35	73.53%	96	4.17	96.00%	70.59%	8/10/2023
Winneconnee	Winnebago	Unknown	6	6	6	33	5.50	31	5.17	93.94%	24	4.00	77.42%	72.73%	7/31/2023
(*1)UW-Oshkosh	Winnebago	5/10/2023	2	1	1	3	3.00	2	2.00	66.67%	1	1.00	50.00%	33.33%	8/16/2023
Waupaca	Waupaca	4/12/2023	30	30	30	138	4.60	122	4.07	88.41%	121	4.03	99.18%	87.68%	Unknown
New London	Outagamie	4/15/2023	20	20	20	70	3.50	53	2.65	75.71%	52	2.60	98.11%	74.29%	8/23/2023
(*2)Hortonville 3	Outagamie	5/10/2023	2	2	2	8	4.00	8	4.00	100.00%	7	3.50	87.50%	87.50%	Unknown
Lake Puckaway Park	Marquette	4/15/2023	12	12	12	71	5.92	67	5.58	94.37%	61	5.08	91.04%	85.92%	Unknown
Buffalo Lake (Sunset Drive)	Marquette	4/8/2023	28	28	28	166	5.93	153	5.46	92.17%	148	5.29	96.73%	89.16%	Unknown
St. Anna	Calumet	Unknown	9	9	9	34	3.78	16	1.78	47.06%	15	1.67	93.75%	44.12%	Unknown
Ariens--Brillion	Calumet	Unknown	8	8	7	28	4.00	7	1.00	25.00%	4	0.57	57.14%	14.29%	Unknown
Crivitz	Marinette	4/7/2023	48	48	48	247	5.15	175	3.65	70.85%	164	3.42	93.71%	66.40%	7/20/2023
Klondike	Oconto	4/3/2023	9	9	9	36	4.00	33	3.67	91.67%	32	3.56	96.97%	88.89%	8/1/2023
Klondike	Oconto	4/3/2023	66	66	60	309	5.15	256	4.27	82.85%	246	4.10	96.09%	79.61%	8/18/2023
Oconto City Marina	Oconto	Unknown	22	22	22	111	5.05	93	4.23	83.78%	86	3.91	92.47%	77.48%	Unknown
Oconto City Park	Oconto	Unknown	18	18	18	88	4.89	80	4.44	90.91%	78	4.33	97.50%	88.64%	Unknown
Lena	Oconto	4/19/2023	16	16	14	68	4.86	55	3.93	80.88%	53	3.79	96.36%	77.94%	8/15/2023
Middleton	Dane	3/26/2023	9	9	9	43	4.78	33	3.67	76.74%	32	3.56	96.97%	74.42%	8/17/2023
Waupun--Marsh Haven	Dodge & Fond	Unknown	35	35	33	176	5.33	118	3.58	67.05%	106	3.21	89.83%	60.23%	8/6/2023
McFarland--Babcock	Dane	4/15/2023	12	12	12	68	5.67	61	5.08	89.71%	61	5.08	100.00%	89.71%	Unknown
Oregon (Lussier-TN of Dunn)	Dane	4/15/2023	12	12	12	59	4.92	45	3.75	76.27%	38	3.17	84.44%	64.41%	Unknown
Madison	Dane	6/1/2023	7	7	3	12	4.00	11	3.67	91.67%	11	3.67	100.00%	91.67%	Unknown
Oregon	Dane	4/1/2023	21	21	21	126	6.00	124	5.90	98.41%	118	5.62	95.16%	93.65%	Unknown
McFarland--Fish Camp Boat Launch	Dane	4/7/2023	13	13	13	65	5.00	63	4.85	96.92%	63	4.85	100.00%	96.92%	Unknown
McFarland--Fish Camp-Yahara River	Dane	4/7/2023	13	13	13	60	4.62	49	3.77	81.67%	49	3.77	100.00%	81.67%	Unknown
Home-Oregon	Dane	4/15/2023	12	12	12	59	4.92	54	4.50	91.53%	53	4.42	98.15%	89.83%	Unknown
Netherwood-Oregon-Village	Dane	4/15/2023	18	18	18	102	5.67	83	4.61	81.37%	78	4.33	93.98%	76.47%	Unknown
Muskego	Waukesha	4/11/2023	13	13	13	69	5.31	60	4.62	86.96%	59	4.54	98.33%	85.51%	Unknown
Juneau	Dodge	4/13/2023	32	32	32	164	5.13	137	4.28	83.54%	121	3.78	88.32%	73.78%	8/2/2023
Port Washington (Afterglow Farms) 2	Ozaukee	Unknown	21	21	21	104	4.95	74	3.52	71.15%	68	3.24	91.89%	65.38%	8/1/2023
Mishicot	Manitowoc	4/10/2023	133	133	133	519	3.90	491	3.69	94.61%	476	3.58	96.95%	91.71%	Unknown
Sheboygan Falls 1	Sheboygan	4/12/2023	34	34	34	131	3.85	79	2.32	60.31%	75	2.21	94.94%	57.25%	9/2/2023
Mishicot	Manitowoc	4/15/2023	5	5	5	23	4.60	18	3.60	78.26%	15	3.00	83.33%	65.22%	7/31/2023
Port Washington 2	Ozaukee	Unknown	12	12	11	47	4.27	36	3.27	76.60%	36	3.27	100.00%	76.60%	8/6/2023
Sheboygan Falls 2	Sheboygan	4/16/2023	15	15	15	80	5.33	53	3.53	66.25%	51	3.40	96.23%	63.75%	Unknown
Plymouth	Sheboygan	4/10/2023	1	1	1	5	5.00	5	5.00	100.00%	5	5.00	100.00%	100.00%	Unknown
Cedar Grove	Sheboygan	4/14/2023	40	40	40	174	4.35	164	4.10	94.25%	162	4.05	98.78%	93.10%	8/27/2023
Harrington Beach State Park, Belgium	Ozaukee	4/13/2023	12	12	12	70	5.83	68	5.67	97.14%	67	5.58	98.53%	95.71%	8/25/2023
Long Lake	Manitowoc	Unknown	28	28	28	159	5.68	125	4.46	78.62%	121	4.32	96.80%	76.10%	Unknown
Sheboygan Falls 3	Sheboygan	Unknown	27	27	27	106	3.93	55	2.04	51.89%	53	1.96	96.36%	50.00%	Unknown
Collins (Nature Center)	Manitowoc	Unknown	5	5	5	18	3.60	16	3.20	88.89%	14	2.80	87.50%	77.78%	Unknown
Jetzers Lake	Sheboygan	Unknown	8	8	8	34	4.25	19	2.38	55.88%	19	2.38	100.00%	55.88%	Unknown
Howards Grove	Sheboygan	4/15/2023	44	44	44	200	4.55	190	4.32	95.00%	188	4.27	98.95%	94.00%	9/6/2023
Barronett	Barron	4/10/2023	36	36	36	170	4.72	167	4.64	98.24%	153	4.25	91.62%	90.00%	Unknown
(*1 & *2) First year of colonies having purple martins staying. (Total of 54 sites in 17 Counties).		1st Martin 3-26-2023	1211	1210	1189	5748	4.83	4786	4.03	83.26%	4475	3.76	93.50%	77.85%	Last Fledge 9/10/2023

Table 5 Statewide summary for **2023** for all of Wisconsin. Data submitted was complete for 54 reports comprising of **1211** total pairs, **1189** total nests with eggs, **5748** eggs laid, **4786** young hatched from eggs and **4475** fledged young. Martins arrived on *March 26, 2023* with the last known fledging taking place on *September 10*. Almost **78%** of the young fledged from eggs adding to the population of **4475 young** considering the impacts of weather and environment.

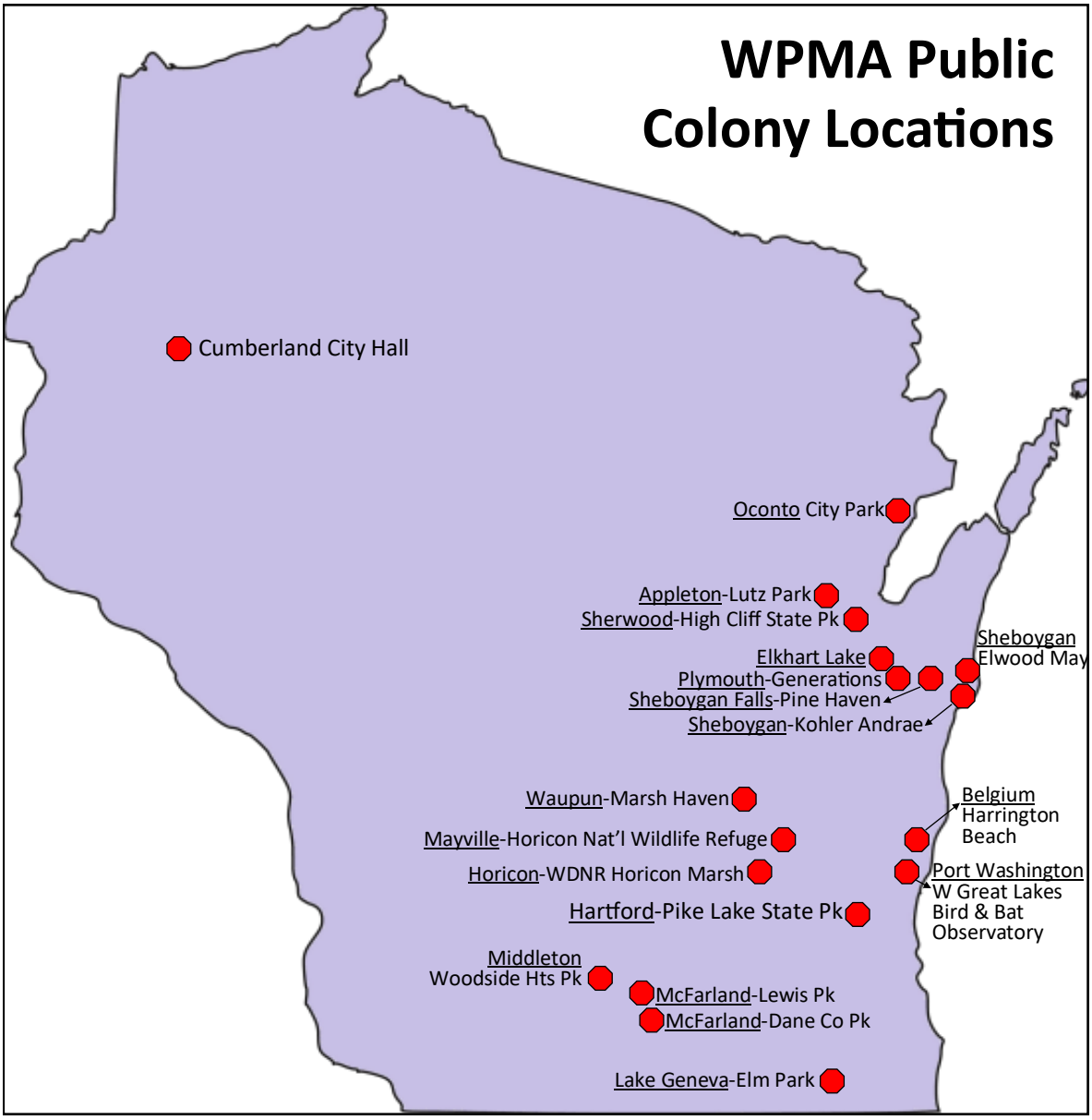
Season began on March 26 in Middleton (**Table 4**) with the first martins arriving and ended with the last young fledged on September 10 near Howards Grove. When compared to 2022 Wisconsin's fledged rates for 2023 were similar for both the fledged rates per nest and percentage from eggs to flight. As we say it was probably a normal year for Wisconsin with a variance across the state. Some places had lower numbers and some higher numbers but it is the health of the entire Wisconsin population that makes it resilient from downward trends for the past couple of years along with the great people who monitor their colonies. Keep in mind that martins are dependent upon us for housing. Without our effort throughout its entire range in

Wisconsin the species could easily decline due to neglect, weather, predators and many more parameters. Never accept the fact that martins will always be in your yard without effort. They depend on you and you should be aware in a blink of an eye they may disappear. This is one member of our family that we do not want to miss or fail to see their importance to our lives during their stay. Thanks to all for your work you do in regards to Purple Martins for this is a two-way street for both of us.

In case you did not know, Purple Martins in the Amazon are being affected by a major drought during their dry period from June thru December 2023. This dry period is the worst for the past 120 years when records were first being kept. The area near the roost area on the Nigro River in Brazil has retreated to levels preventing boat traffic, exposing mud flats, exposing petroglyphs, and creating hazards for humans like contaminated water and diseases related to the tainted waters. Record temperatures were occurring, the rain forest is burning and normal rainfall does not appear to be occurring as of this writing. Note our Purple Martins are soon going to be using this vast area for safety if possible or for food resources. If humans are impacted so will the many species of wildlife including our Purple Martins and their own species of martins. What impacts of climate make on their survival will have impacts both directly and indirectly. Exposure to contaminants in abundance are one of the leading items along with their food resources of insects. So, it is important to pay future attention in Wisconsin as I am trying to stress. Never take for granted of having or attracting Purple Martins in Wisconsin, for these birds are Neotropical migrants circumventing two continents. It is a miracle each year for their survival. What a gift we are given of their presence along the way! Make sure you stay abreast of our weather and the progress of them migrating into Wisconsin. Be part of monitoring not only for me for data but also for guarding martins against unknowns yet to come.

-Photos, charts, data compiled by Dick Nikolai

Figure 5 Bob Ring feeding very hungry Purple Martins. Prior Dick Nikolai fed them 1500 crickets and mealworms with an additional 8 scrambled eggs for 1-1/2 hours during late afternoon on May 1, 2023. During the early morning hours several inches of snow fell. Throughout the 2023 spring most days had two daily feeding sessions covering at least 20 days of time spent feeding martins due to cool weather.



Starting with the Spring 2024 issue of *Purple Martin Chatter*, we would like to highlight one of our public colonies. If you live near or help manage one of the colonies listed and would like to submit photos and a description of the status of the colony, please do so! As the public colonies grow, we will continue to update this map.

1) Cumberland-City Hall 950 1st Avenue, Cumberland, WI 54820

2) Middleton-Woodside Heights Park (Tiedeman Pond) 7202 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 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI 53032

9) Waupun-Marsh Haven Nature Center W10145 State Road 49, Waupun, WI 53963

10) Mayville-Horicon Nat'l 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

Purple Martin Chatter is a publication of the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association, an organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the Purple Martin population in Wisconsin. It is published four times annually in January, April, July, and October.

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PM tips or stories? We welcome member's submissions! Please limit submissions to 500 words or less; photos must be your own for publication. Direct articles in Word format and jpeg photographs to editor.

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Mark Your Calendars

1 January 2024	*Membership dues collected*
9-11 February	*Garden & Landscape Expo* Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Ctr Way (Madison)
10 February	*Attracting and Retaining Purple Martins,* 10:45 a.m. (Monona/Wingra Room)
17 February	*PM Presentation,* 10:00 a Wild Birds Unlimited 8402 Old Sauk Rd Middleton, WI 53562
29 June	*MartinFest 2024 (*12p-4p) N9434 Cty Rd G St. Cloud, WI 53079

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