
INFORMAL REPORT TO CU ON THE 2009 PURPLE MARTIN BANDING SEASON, ALLEN JACKSON

The following data pertains to purple martins banded under Allen Jackson's license during the 2009 season.

Bird	Number Banded	Number of Sites	Number of NJ Counties
Purple Martins	6,058	110	11
Eastern bluebirds	478	35	8
Tree swallows	66	10	2

Banding

The bulk of the banding for the martins is usually done in southern NJ based upon species population, number of banders, and time available to band. Tim Shaheen and Jason Gancarz band in Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Morris and Mercer Counties. Laurie Pettigrew, Ken Glaspey, Drew Gerberux, and myself band in the southern Counties (Cape May, Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Camden and Burlington.) Most of the effort goes towards the martins.

Purple Martins

This was an unusual year with the cold wet season. It affected nesting by reducing the number of eggs laid/abandoned/fledged. Most colonies were down significantly. However, the martins always seem to come through. Their season was extended by about 3 weeks as many martins renested or delayed nesting to salvage some production for the year. The weather affected the population but I believe the birds will bounce back in 2010 if the weather cooperates.

Purple martin info is available at <http://www.purplemartin.org>, or they can also contact me for advice.

Bluebirds

Interestingly, we had a great year with bluebirds. We increased our bluebird trails and significantly increased production. We also made an interesting observation about house location: pairing houses increases tree swallow and decreases bluebird production. For this reason we do not recommend pairing houses.

Proper management is as important to bluebirds as it is to martins. Proper housing, proper location, and monitoring pay big dividends. For those who want to surf the website for

management practices go to Wisconsin's bluebird chapter - <http://www.braw.org> (Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin) which is far superior in providing important info. They have a 20 page info packet that is worth the download.

Looking Forward

The colored bands for this year have already been and one of the marker codes is "CU". This will be the only time I will be able to use CU on the band so I will try to save those 1000 bands for our area! I still have 2000 bands left over from last year so will only order 6000 this year. I am grateful to CU for purchasing the bands each year.

-Allen Jackson