

2023, WHAT A YEAR!

2023 is not quite over, but, for PMCI, “Purple Martin season” runs from September through July. Our work begins in September as we plan for the Martins’ arrival in January. Once the nestlings have fledged, we end our season in July with a trip to Houston, TX to attend the Martin Roost Watch Party organized by Houston Audubon. Then is August, we enjoy some time off — perfect timing for PMCI because it was too HOT to do anything outside.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



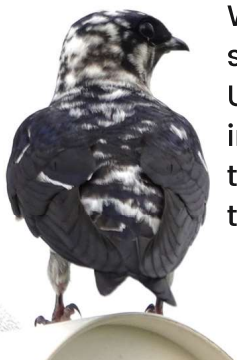
Our educational outreach began in January when PMCI participated in the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine’s open house. This was, by far, the largest outreach table event we’ve done with over 5,000 people attending. Many people stopped by our booth and shared stories about loved ones who hosted Purple Martins in their backyard. Others expressed interest in installing a Purple Martin house. We were happy to see students from some of our school sites stop by and enthusiastically talk about Purple Martins and share information regarding their school site. Our work with local schools is indeed making a difference.

PMCI participated in a number of nature events and talked at Garden Clubs, schools, and adult programs. The annual Explore Nature Event was held in early May followed by the Explore Nature Family Program Series at the Southeastern Livingston Center.



The Explore Nature event was held at North Park in Denham Springs, LA on Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 8:30AM until 12:00PM. It remained a free event for people of all ages. Biologist Katie Percy kicked off the day with a guided bird walk. Individuals walked among the exhibits and learned about native plants, gardening, live animals, and environmental responsibility. A few groups visited our Purple Martin colony and saw Purple Martin nests with unhatched eggs and nestlings.

Later in the day, Dr. Erik Johnson from Audubon Delta visited our Purple Martin colony to band some of the Purple Martins and take other measurements. We had a leucistic bird in the colony. Dr. Johnson banded her which allowed us to get a closer look. Bird leucism is a genetic mutation that results in total or partial reduction of color in a bird’s plumage.



We continued the Explore Nature program through the summer presentation series at Southeastern Louisiana University’s Livingston campus. The talks included information about our natural environment. We appreciate the presenters who volunteered their time to bring these talks to the Livingston Parish community.



PROJECTS

PMCI's added a number of new projects in 2023. We installed Purple Martin and Eastern Bluebird housing at Seventh Ward Elementary School in Denham Springs, LA. New housing was placed at False River Park in New Roads, LA. Construction at Live Oak High School caused us to move the school's Martin housing across the highway on private property. Because Live Oak's construction will continue through the 2024 season, the housing will temporarily stay in its current location. Mr. Al, the property owner, has been a joy to work with and we sincerely appreciate his allowing us to keep the school's Purple Martin colony on his land.



We wanted the ability to monitor the North Park Colony after hours, so we installed a security camera. We were surprised to find out that owls were visiting the colony in the middle of the night. We have predator guards on our housing, however, the owls did negatively impact the colony. We found a few nests that the adults were no longer present. We also found feathers on the ground at the site as well. We will be making a few changes at the site for the 2024 season based on our observations.

Krista Adams traveled to the Amazon in March with a group organized by the Purple Martin Conservation Association through the Amazonas Bird Watching Eco Tour. The trip included a visit to where the Purple Martins roost on an island located in the Rio Negro River. The Purple Martins roost on this island before their migration to the United States. The trip was full of amazing adventures and lots of first.



2023-2024 SEASON

Thus far, we've provided educational presentations for the Ponchatoula and Baton Rouge Garden Clubs. Krista and Mike Adams traveled to Destin, FL to Valencia Condominiums to educate the homeowners about Purple Martins. The condo residents had Martins some years back. With a few recommendations to upgrade the site, it's hopeful the martins will return to the condo grounds. Two schools have asked PMCI to install Purple Martin housing. We're also partnering with Moncus Park in Lafayette, LA to help begin two Purple Martin conservation sites. This will be our first project in the Lafayette area.

Krista Adams also started a "Kids Who Bird" program at Seventh Ward Elementary. Once monthly, she meets with elementary students and teaches them about birds. In November, Krista scheduled Jane Patterson, President of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society, to teach the students about Hummingbirds and lead a bird walk around the school campus. Sports Optics, LLC donated binoculars to the class so each student will have the ability to better see the birds.



Krista also spoke at the City of Harahan's council meeting in September to voice her support for the Purple Martins residing in Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stamm's backyard. The Stamm's neighbors have filed a complaint against them stating the Purple Martins are a nuisance due to the amount of bird excrement in the area. As of this writing, the council has taken this item off their agenda and it's been moved to the Mayor's court. We will be monitoring this case as a negative ruling can be detrimental for the Purple Martins not only in the City of Harahan, but everywhere.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

PMCI, is a self-funded non-profit, relies on donations to help us continue helping Purple Martins — without caring people like you, Purple Martins would cease to exist. A heartfelt "Thank You" to our supporters. We ask for your continued support in the futility. All donations, no matter how small are welcome.

Donations are accepted by check made payable to Purple Martin Conservation Initiative and via PayPal through the link on our website: www.pmcila.org.

Purple Martin Conservation Initiative (EIN# 86-3251426) is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.



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