

**BLUEBIRD/TREE SWALLOW  
PURPLE MARTIN REPORT  
2011**

I've been waiting for a nasty day to work on this End of the Year Report and for a while I didn't think we would get any nasty weather. December was pretty mild and when January rolled around it too was relatively mild. So, here it is, half way through January and I finally have the chance to work inside. I'm not complaining, in fact, I wish the rest of the winter would be mild.

Activity at my multiple feeders has been slow. . . until the snow came! Sometimes I think I have every bird in Scott Township at my feeders. If you feed birds I'm sure you've noticed that the price of birdseed has sky-rocketed this season. I tried everywhere to find cheap black-oiled sunflower seeds. I tried the internet for bulk seed providers. I tried all the local sellers of birdseed. Everyone was in the \$27 per 40 lb. bag range. I finally was able to purchase the seed at Tractor Supply when the price dropped to \$23 per bag. I was also able to get a discount because I said I would buy 1,000 pounds! And, of course, three weeks after my purchase they ran a sale at \$20 per bag!

And now the results of our 28<sup>th</sup> year of reporting nesting success:

**BLUEBIRDS**

Another average year. . . banded a total of 253. That number brings our 28 year total to 8,855. Looks like next year we might break 9,000! I was afraid that maybe all the rain we had this season might have a negative effect on nesting but apparently it didn't. The rain might have actually produced more insects. . . just what the adult birds need in order to feed their young.

The "Bluebird Parents of the Year" award goes to Doyle Shaeffer, followed by Jean & Danny Brubaker, Don Miller, and Todd & Kay Vance. More boxes have been added to the Brubaker farm and to the Vance's wetland area and should produce well next season.

The following bluebird boxes sponsors successfully fledged families in 2011. The names listed below are as they appear on the boxes:

The Eddings Family	Nicholas Carper	Ray Hammer
Bill & Jill Bowe	Bruce Pollak	Isabell Brink
Jim & Ginny Moll	Irma Dorsey Long	Tim & Shirley Reno
Gary & Pam Shively	Nancy Kreager	V. Lenwell
The Piccuito Family	Charlie & Karen Peck	Steve Wasserman
Schade Builders	The Wellington Family	John & Barbara Gettman
Steve Younker	John Feher	Chad & Jamie Reno
Alice Shammo	Hank & Helen Reineck	Gburg Fire Dept.
Noah Bryant		

In Memory of:

Mary Mauch	Iris Shively	Neal Waggoner
Ray Young	Wilbur Peters	Corky Herman
Wilbur Schade	Lavonna Taylor	Robert Stierwalt
Smiley Moyer	Woody Overmyer	Stan Chlosta
Jim Driftmyer	Don Nopper	Chester Dowell
Frosty Anderson	Loretta Meyer	Charlie Busch
Clayton Fisher	Bob Henline	Don Shoemaker
Norma Kelbley	Bev Waters	

**TREE SWALLOWS**

Below average year. . . total of 225 banded. But there's a reasonable explanation for these low numbers. Most tree swallow young are born during the month of June. I was gone in early June for 10 days on a family vacation. . . and a Green Creek trip for 10 days in late June. Even though I missed banding a majority of the birds, our boxes did fledge good numbers.

The Tree Swallow "Parents of the Year" belong to Brent & Elaine Mackey, followed by Don Miller.  
The following sponsors successfully fledged families in 2011. The names listed are as they appear on the boxes.

R.B.Hayes Audubon	Julia Kammeyer	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Garn
Wilbur Ehmke	Hilda Burkett	Linda & Ralph Norman
Vivian Hammer	Don & Ruth Avers	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Horn
Marge & Carter Clark	Thomas Lause	Ruth & Bill Bowers
Lois Phillips	Phyllis Stierwalt	Rita Claypool
John & Barb Gettman	Ed Todd	Doug & Heather Carnicom
Joanne Niswander	Schade Builders	Elizabeth Schuett
Eugene Bair	Reed Family Farms	Peggy Hammer
Mason Brink	Betty & Chet Mauch	Joyce Henline
Janet & Dutch Gloer	Moni Younker	

In Memory of :

Don Nopper	Harry Stevens	Mindy Hoffman Diekman
Ed Dorobek Jr.	Catherine W. Hill	Don George
Anne Daubel	Eddie Blue	Michael Buczek
James Garn	Dora Hill	Frosty Anderson
Bishop James Hoffman	Dick Engler	Jim King
Jim Bremer	Pat Willis	Stan Chlosta
Michael Dorobek	John Feher	Edmund Kupka
Jonathon Pope	James E. Hill	Al Rupke
Earl Crone		

#### **PURPLE MARTINS**

Average year.....total of 423 banded. The colonies surveyed this season were Doug & Heather Carnicom, Steve Fisher, Virgil Weichman, Dennis Zunk, and the Green Creek Club. The Dennis Zunk colony was a new one this season and produced over 100 birds.

28 years and still going strong!!!! Green Creek Wildlife Society would like to thank the landowners, trail monitors, and everyone concerned with making our nesting projects a success story.

I have 3 favors to ask of you. If you have an email address, could you please notify me at [greencreekws@gmail.com](mailto:greencreekws@gmail.com). It's getting expensive to mail over 300 letters. Secondly, if you are interested in sponsoring another box, the cost is still \$25.00 per box. And finally, if you would like to make a donation to Green Creek to help defray the cost of this report plus upkeep on the boxes, it would be most appreciated. Thank you and have a great 2012!

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