

2025 Season Report

Chautauqua Bird, Tree & Garden Club Purple Martin Project

Martin chats: Four were given at the martin house north of the Sports Club, at 4:15 on Thursdays June 26 and July 3, 10 and 17. The weather was good at each of the chats. Attendance was normal except for the last when attendance was large due to a feature in the Daily.

Project notes: All housing was cleaned out and stored on September 4 and 5. No repairs or painting was needed. Mites were found at a few nests. The T-14s were put up in mid-March and the gourds in early April. House sparrows were not a problem but starlings nested in one gourd despite the starling resistant entrance. The first martin egg was laid on May 21. Bad weather in the second half of May disrupted the usual nesting and caused mortality in the county but not at Chautauqua. Nests were checked every five or six days until the young fledged. To control blowfly parasites, only a few nests were replaced. As in years past, the detailed data sheets will be sent to the Purple Martin Conservation Association for inclusion in their Project Martinwatch.

A – Sports Club T14 with 18 compartments, 9 occupied

B – Coyle (Sailing Center) T14 with 18 compartments, 11 occupied

C – Coyle (Sailing Center) rack with 24 gourds, 7 occupied

D -- Golf Course T14 with 18 compartments, 6 occupied

E – Soccer Field rack with 24 gourds, 10 occupied

Fledged

	Eggs	Hatch	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
A	46	36	32	16	20	47	31	49	44	25	14	49	28
B	48	35	24	16	13	38	56	36	68	58	56	42	31
C	35	25	20	23	40	69	64	54	55	41	32	49	25
D	34	15	12	6	9	39	28	49	34	36	29	68	38
E	48	39	39	40	47	56	66	77	54	39	38	36	22
Total	211	150	127	101	129	249	245	265	255	199	169	244	144

Production summary:

Occupancy rate: $43/102=42\%$

Hatch rate: $150/211=71\%$

Fledge rate: $127/150=85\%$

The occupancy rate continues to decline despite good housing well located and managed. The number of eggs laid was down again from last year. The hatch rate also dropped. The fledge rate increased to 85% due to perfect weather in June and July. Merlins were reported to be present on the grounds but their effects on martins are not known. Chautauqua's martins have suffered a serious decline in recent years but showed an encouraging rebound this year.

Recommendations: Continue the chats and nest checks. The remaining two Barber houses are in bad condition and are of no benefit to martins. They should be removed. The perch on top of the Sailing Center T14 is broken and needs to be repaired using a lift. This should be done prior to houses going back up at the end of March. The similar perch on the Sports Club T14 needs adjustment and probably repair.

Jack Gulvin, Naturalist

18 September 2025