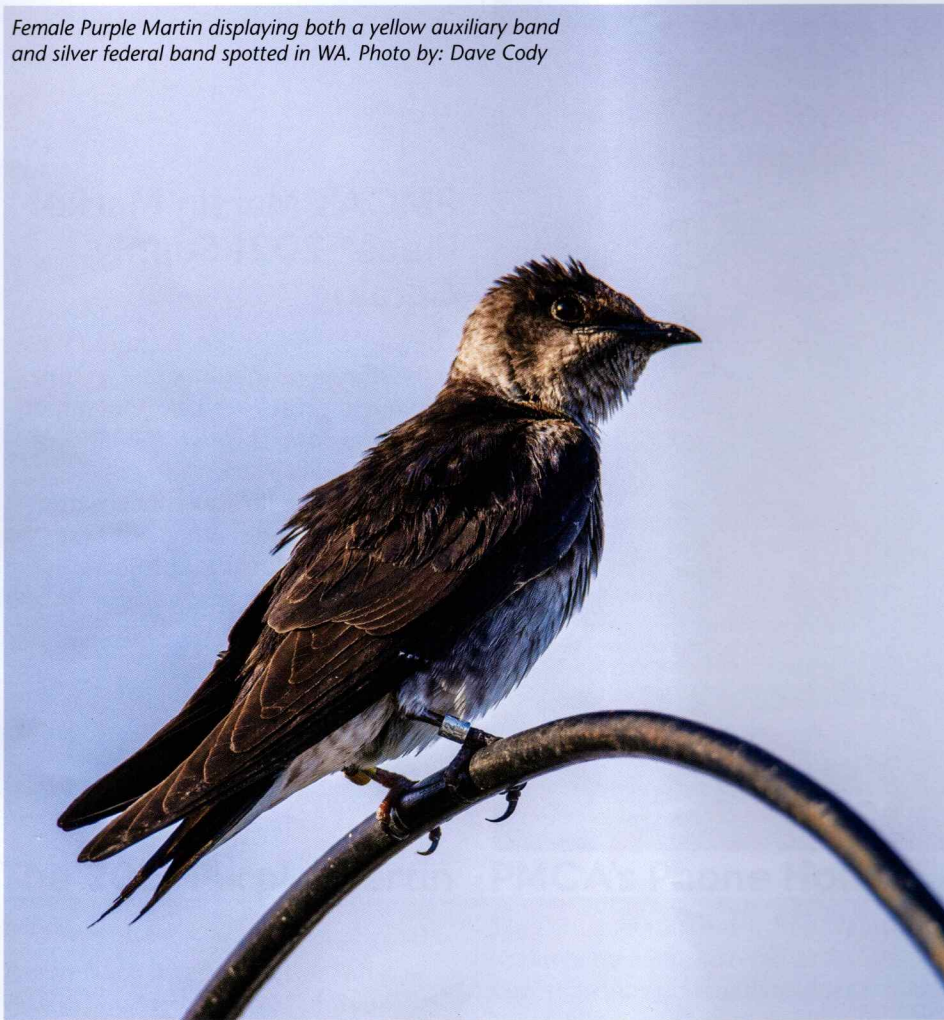





LANDLORD Letters

Female Purple Martin displaying both a yellow auxiliary band and silver federal band spotted in WA. Photo by: Dave Cody



 I became familiar with Purple Martins in my grandfather's gourds that he grew on his farm in Alabama. As a young adult I also had Purple Martins in my yard. I moved to the Olympic Peninsula, Washington, after retirement and was here ten years before I learned that there was a Purple Martin colony in Poulsbo nearby and that martins preferred to nest over water in this area. I attached five gourds on old pilings just offshore at Diamond Point and three years later attracted the first martins. Having no boat, I had to deal with

tides and wind and lost some gourds in a storm. My friend Robert Rankin helped with his boat to install and remove the gourds. Three years ago, I moved my eight gourds on shore and added four more. This year I called the PMCA and Tara sent me laminated baby photos and a prognosticator. My wife Beverly and I watched eagerly as the martins began nesting and called Tara a number of times for advice and coaching after we decided to try to monitor our birds closely.

Our friends Helen and Kent "Bo" Bohac joined us and we started

lowering the gourds to count eggs. When we saw the first baby chick it was like our first grandchild was born. But the excitement really happened when we noticed that one female was banded. Tara advised that if we could discern numbers, we may be able to learn details about the bird. Dave Cody, a neighbor photographer, captured great pictures that enabled us to identify six of the nine numbers on the metal band and six characters on the colored band. The images were forwarded to the Bird Banding Laboratory and we quickly learned that the martin was banded on July 15, 2015 as a chick near Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. We were thrilled to have discovered and identified a banded bird on our first year of monitoring and that it was banded in another country! Based on her age, she may have already survived 70,000 migration miles! In our twelve gourds this year there were seven nests of which six had eggs, from three to six each, for a total of twenty-eight eggs. Six eggs did not hatch, and we lost three chicks. The last of nineteen martins fledged on September 2, 2020. This was a great experience for us, and we look forward to the martins returning the second week of April 2021. We wish them luck and safe travels.

**Wallace Teal
Sequim, WA**

 With colder weather starting here in Ohio, it's nice to know that our martins are enjoying spring time in Brazil. We look forward to each magazine issue. Thanks for your work!

**Monroe Schmucker
Burton, OH**