Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

Purple Martin Nesting Report 2017

Plum Island in Newbury & Newburyport, MA

The **Purple Martin** (*Progne subis*) is the largest North American swallow. Purple Martins make their nests in cavities, either natural or artificial. In many places, humans put up real or artificial hollow gourds, or houses for them, especially in the east, where Purple Martins are almost entirely dependent on such structures. As a result, they often breed in colonies located in close proximity to people. We are very fortunate to have colonies of these voracious insect eaters on Plum Island thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers who maintain the artificial nesting gourds and monitor the birds each season.

Refuge Lot#1 North Rack - 24 Gourds (New in 2017):

Nests: 2

Eggs: 3

Fledgelings: 3

Refuge Lot#1 South Rack - 18 Gourds:

Nests: 11

Eggs: 54 (4 nonviable eggs)

Fledgelings: 49 (1 expired)

North End PI - Lighthouse - 24 Gourds:

Nests: 14

Eggs: 61

Fledgelings: 57 (4 nonviable eggs)

Special Thank You *to* ***Sue McGrath, Lynette Leka & Jane Sender,*** *Landlords for Plum Island's Purple Martin Sites, who monitored the nests all season and provided the data for this report!!*