Purple Martin Report for CY 2018 by Bill Krebs

1. This year was not as good as last year, possibly the weather may have created some havoc in the early nesting. January was an exceptionally warm month for Dataw. Consequently, the birds came early in mid-February, but then after their arrival the weather turned quite cold and the Martins left for three weeks. They reappeared in mid-March during a warm spell but they quickly disappeared again, returning around 20 April. There were nests in all 14 cells at each of our three primary nest sites by 1 May. This date was about two weeks later than last year. The first eggs started appearing on 8 May and by 21 May every nest but two had eggs. Nest #5 on Cotton Dike 13 site had 10 eggs, which is most unusual as I have not read where a nest has had more than seven (7) eggs. Unfortunately, only 5 of the 10 eggs hatched.
   The very hot weather that we experienced in May and June may have accounted for 51 eggs not hatching and for eight (8) fledgling dying. Consequently, the total birds that lived to fly away were down from last year's count.

2. **Summary of new Fledgling for each year beginning in 2007**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CD 13	38	25	55	56	50	37	36	43	16	47	55	61
CD 7	15	49	55	66	52	45	48	31	38	73	65	45
CD 6											56	46
Totals	53	74	110	122	102	82	84	74	54	80	176	152
Note estimate for Cotton Dike 16 & Morgan 16 (unable to open cells)											40	40
Total new fledgling on Dataw											216	192

3. Note for CD 16 and Morgan 16, I observed bird activity in five cells for each site. Based on the average of 5 eggs per cell (nest) for the above three sites and that each nest probably produced four (4) fledgling per cell, there were most likely 10x4= 40 fledgling for CD 16 and Morgan 16.

4. By 29 July all the fledgling at CD 13 had departed about 10 days later than the other two sites.

5. Special note on 28 May Nest (cell #2) on CD 6 an English Starling had laid 4 eggs. I destroyed three of them. The 4th egg had hatched and I left it there. However, one week later it died. The Purple Martins never used that nest.

6. On June 6th I found a dead adult male Martin in cell #7 on CD 6 site. First time that I have found an adult dead bird on our sites. Also I found more discarded eggs at all three sites than in prior years.
7. Actual eggs/nestlings/fledgling for all three sites:

	Eggs	Nestlings/pct eggs hatched	Mortalities	Fledgling
CD 13	80	64 (80%)	3	61
CD 7	76	47 (70%)	2	45
CD 6	61	49 (80%)	3	46
Totals	207	160	8	152