

BRAW County Coordinators List Renewed

By Joe Schultz

In late October, 2009, the BRAW BOD approved a new policy for BRAW County Coordinators (CC's, see below). All CC's were sent letters to inform them of this new policy. They had the option of renewing their CC positions, if eligible, or renewing their positions on a temporary status until they completed their eligibility or decline to renew their CC positions. In addition, about 15 persons were identified from the Operation Top State initiative and were contacted to see if they were interested in becoming CC's.

The result is a list of 52 CC's representing 52 counties (some represent more than one county and some counties are represented by more than one person). I am very excited about this list of CC's. In the years that I have been Director of this program, I think this is one of the most motivated groups of people with which I have had the pleasure to communicate.

You will note that 20 counties still do not have any CC's and 7 counties are served by the same CC's (Racine/Kenosha; Milwaukee/Ozaukee &

Monroe/Wood & Waupaca). That means we can still use more County Coordinators. Anyone that would consider helping in any county should contact me by email (joeschultz54@charter.net) or by phone (715) 341-5521.

Each year I will send information sheets out to all CC's to inform them of their eligibility status and to see if they are interested in continuing as CC's. Thanks to all of the past, present and new coordinators. With you, bluebirds and other native nesting songbirds are in good shape.

*Eligibility & Responsibilities of BRAW County Coordinators

I. #Eligibility

- A. Membership in BRAW
- B. Personally monitor or supervise the monitoring of a bluebird trail totaling at least 20 nest boxes
- C. Monitor nest boxes using management techniques developed and recommended by BRAW in the Informational Packet. Monitoring includes raising all cavity nesting songbirds that inhabit your nest boxes (wrens, chickadees & Tree Swallows in addition to bluebirds).
- D. Send in data to the Data Collection Coordinator each season on the

BRAW BOD-approved, Form 21

At the end of each year, membership lists and data reports will be reviewed. Those persons not meeting the above criteria will be automatically dropped as BRAW County Coordinators and will be so-informed in writing.

II. *In addition to basic eligibility for appointment as a County Coordinator, the following activities are highly recommended.*

- A. Actively recruit other monitors (invite potential monitors into the field to help you monitor nest boxes and offer them a chance to develop a bluebird trail of their own).
- B. Locate sites for new bluebird trails (golf courses; parks; roadsides)
- C. Organize annual workshops to promote an interest in BRAW and recruit monitors
(The BRAW BOD can provide speakers for and help organize these workshops)
- D. Answer questions about bluebirds from the general public that might be directed your way
- E. Attend the Annual State Convention

* **Approved: October, 2009**

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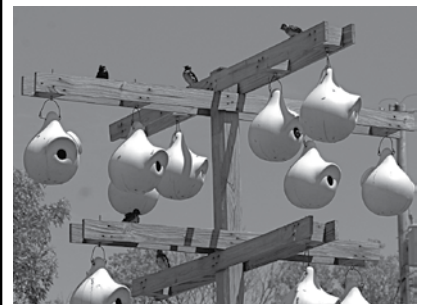
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Attracting Purple Martins

Educate Yourself. Learn everything you can about Purple Martins. Visit the web site www.purplemartin.org of the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA).

Choose the Right Location. Martin housing should be in the center of the largest open spot available, about 30-120 feet from human housing.

Put Up Manageable Housing. Your chances for success will be better if your housing is easy to manage. Choose a pole that telescopes, or is equipped with a winch or rope & pulley, and housing that has easy access to the compartments.

Open Housing at the Right Time. At active sites, the first martins usually return within a week or two of the previous years' arrival dates.

Increase Your Chances. Offer a combination of houses and gourds. Play a dawn song recording. Add a Purple Martin decoy or two.

Don't Close it Too Soon. Keep your house open until late August, as fledglings will be searching for next year's breeding sites in late summer.

Protect Your Housing from Predators. Once you attract Purple Martins, don't assume that because you never see any predators there are none around. so install a pole guard, too. External guards on the housing itself protect against aerial raids by hawks, owls, and crows.

Conduct Weekly Nest Checks. Nest checks will not cause martins to abandon their young. Record your data.