

# 3 Crabs Purple Martin Census

## Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

### June 22 – August 5, 2025

Box	Eggs 6-22	Eggs 7-12	Chicks 7-12	Eggs 7-22	Chicks 7-22	Eggs 8-5	Chicks 8-5	Mated Pairs**
1A	6	0-1	5-6	0	5-6	0	2	1
1B	6	0	4-6	0	5-6	0	5	1
1C	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	0
2A	5	0	4-5	0	4-5	0	2	1
2B	5	1-2	2-3	0	4-5	0	2	1
2C	1	5	0	0	1	0	1	1
3A	4	0-1	3-4	0	3-4	0	0	1
3B	3	6	0	6	0	2	0	1
3C	5	0-1	4-5	0	4-5	0	4	1
4A	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	1
4B	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	0
4C	3	0	4	0	4	0	4	1
5A	5	0	5	0	5	0	1	1
5B	0	4	0	4	0	2	2 dead	1
5C	5	0-1	4-5	0	2-3	0	4	1
6A	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	1
6B	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	1
6C	4	0	4	0	4	0	3-4	1
10A*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10B*	0	1	3	0	4	0	3	1
Gourd*	0	---	---	---	---	0	4	1
201							2	1
202								
203							2	1
204								
205							2	1
206								
	<b>56</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>43-50</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>49-56</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>49-50</b>	<b>21</b>

\* 10A/10B is a new OPAS duplex box installed on private property in Dungeness, approximately 0.3 miles south of the 3 Crabs parking lot. "Gourd" is on private property approximately 0.5 miles south of the 3 Crabs parking lot. The property owner has given OPAS access to document nesting success here.

\*\* Today, August 5, 2025, we found that the four eggs that were in Box 4A on July 22 have hatched, but the four in Box 6B have not. Box 3B had six eggs on July 12 and 22, and only two eggs today. The missing four eggs could not have hatched and the chicks fledged in just 14 days, so the fate of the other four is a mystery. Sadly, we found two dead newly hatched chicks in Box 5B and two unhatched eggs.

**NOTE:** Six OPAS boxes, #201-#206, are inaccessible to inspection, so we can only observe and draw conclusions. Boxes 201, 203 and 205 have each produced at least two chicks and we have photographic documentation of them. Unfortunately, one chick from Box 205 fell out into the lagoon, and despite rescuing it twice it failed to survive. We can't confirm hatchings from the other three, but we can count three mated pairs from these six nests.

On July 22, 2025, we found Box 4A and Box 6B with four eggs each. They were both empty nests ten days ago, so we can add two more mated pairs of Purple Martins, for a total of 17 mated pairs. We also noted feeding behavior at three of the six nest boxes in the tidal lagoon, so we can assume an additional three mated pairs.

Also on July 22 we took the temperature in the boxes with an ETEKCITY infrared thermometer. Temperatures ranged from 55-59 degrees.

On July 12, 14 of the 18 nest boxes on the pilings had chicks or eggs. In addition, the new installation in Dungeness had chicks, giving us a total of 15 mated pairs of Purple Martins. Since we are unable to access the six nest boxes in the tidal lagoon with our endoscope, we do not yet know which have eggs or chicks. That will be determined by observation of feeding activity.

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On June 22, Box 1C was completely bare, with all the grasses we primed it with removed. On July 12 there was a small amount of nesting material, that I saw being delivered last week, but it doesn't look like this box will get a nest.

On June 22, Box 4A had a fully developed nest with lots of fresh green leaves, suggesting eggs will arrive shortly. Disappointed to see no eggs today. Is this a practice nest?

On June 22, Box 4B was completely bare, with all the grasses we primed it with removed. No change today.

On June 22, Box 5B had a fully developed nest with lots of fresh green leaves, suggesting eggs will arrive shortly. Today there were 4 eggs.

On June 22, Box 6B had a fully developed nest with lots of fresh green leaves, suggesting eggs will arrive shortly. Disappointed to see no eggs today. Is this a practice nest?