

3 Crabs Purple Martin Census

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

June 14 - July 30, 2026

Box	Eggs 6-14	Eggs 6-28	Chicks 6-28	Eggs 7-16	Chicks 7-16	Eggs 7-30	Chicks 7-30	Fledged ¹ 7-30	Breeding Pairs
1A	0-GL***	5		0	All dead	0	0		1
1B	0-GL	5		0	5	0	3-5	0-2	1
1C	Empty	2		4	0	0	2		1
2A	0-GL	5		1	4	0	2	2 dead?	1
2B	3	0	3	0	3	0	2-3	0-1	1
2C	Empty	GL		3	0	0	1		1
3A	6	0	6	0	6	0	0	6	1
3B	0-GL	0		Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty		
3C	0-GL	5		0	5	0	4-5	0-1	1
4A	0-GL	5		1	2	Empty	Empty	2 dead?	1
4B	0-GL	0		0	0	0	0		
4C	0-GL	4		0	4	0	4		1
5A	0-GL	5		0	5	0	1	2-4 dead? 0-2 fledged	1
5B	Empty	Empty		Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty		
5C	Empty	GL		0	0	3	0		
6A	0-GL	2		4	0	0	4		1
6B	0-GL	5		0	5	0	5		1
6C	5	1	4	4	0	0	4	4 dead ¹	1
201	---								
202	---						2		1
203	---								
204	---						2		1
205	---								
206	---						2		1
10A*	---								
10B*	---								
Gourd**	---					0	4		1
	14	45	13	17	39	3	42-46		19

NOTES FOR JULY 30th

- Fledged¹. I added this column to speculate on how many eggs actually produced chicks that fledged. This is non-scientific guess-work. When chicks are piled on top of each other we can't know for sure how many are there. For example, Box 1B started with five eggs, had five chicks on July 16th, but we can only definitely count three chicks on July 30th. They are old enough that two could have fledged, but maybe two are buried. Thus, I recorded 3-5 chicks and 0-2

fledged. We can usually count dead chicks, either during nest box checks or after we take the boxes down in the fall. But as we've seen already, eggs and dead chicks sometimes disappear from the nest between checks (see notes for Box 6C). So I'm trying to account for those changes here.

- Box 1A: This is very discouraging. On June 28th there were five freshly laid eggs in a clean nest. On July 16th there were only dead chicks in a very messy nest. Today the dead chicks are gone, and some new nesting material is visible.
- Box 1B: All five eggs we found on June 28th hatched, and the chicks looked healthy on July 16th. Today we can see only three chicks that look close to fledging. We assume the other two have recently fledged.
- Box 1C: This nest presents another mystery. There were two eggs on June 28th and four on July 16th. Today there are two chicks that appear to be only 3-4 days old, and no eggs.
- Box 2A: On July 16th we noted that four of the five eggs from June 28th had hatched, and the chicks looked a bit stressed. Today there are clearly two fully feathered chicks that look ready to fledge. But it looks like there is at least one dead chick on the left side of this image.
- Box 2B: On July 16th there were three chicks in 2B, which matched the 3 eggs we had on June 14th. These are likely the first chicks at 3 Crabs this season. Today, we can see two fully feathered chicks. These may have fledged and are just back in the nest resting.
- Box 2C: On July 16th there were three eggs that were laid after June 28th. Today there are no eggs visible and one newly hatched chick on a bed of green leaves that were not there on July 16th.
- Box 3A: We believe the female in 3A laid her sixth egg early the morning of June 14th, and we found 4-6 newly hatched chicks on June 28th. On July 16 the chicks appeared to be least 18 days old. We assume that all six chicks fledged successfully.
- Box 3B: On June 14th, Box 3B had the start of a nest, with some green leaves indicating eggs were on the way. Not much change on June 28th, but on July 16th this box was bare, as it is today. Sometimes PUMA will steal the nest material from one box to use in another.
- Box 3C: Box 3C had 5 eggs on June 28th, and five chicks on July 16th. Today, three fully feathered chicks are visible, and possibly a fourth, although two may have fledged now.
- Box 4A: This is another mystery nest. Box 4A had five eggs on June 28th, all laid after our June 14th check. On July 16th there were two 7-day old chicks and one egg that should have hatched already. Today Box 4A is bare, with all the nest material removed. It is too soon for those two chicks to have fledged, so we assume they did not survive.
- Box 4B: Box 4B is another one where a nest was started early but no eggs were ever laid.
- Box 4C: Four eggs from June 28th hatched but the 2-3-day old chicks looked a bit stressed on July 16th. Today they look like they are getting fed and growing.
- Box 5A: All five eggs in Box 5A on June 28th hatched and the chicks looked OK on July 16th. Today there is one fully feathered chick that looks close to fledging, but there appear to be one or more dead chicks in the nest.
- Box 5B: The grasses we primed Box 5B with were removed early in the season and this box has not been used other than for roosting.

- Box 5C: On June 14th all the grasses we primed Box 5C with had been removed. On June 28th new nesting material had been delivered, along with some green sea grass. The nest looked complete on July 16th, and today there are three eggs.
- Box 6A: Box 6A had two eggs on June 28th and four on July 16th. Today there are four hungry chicks.
- Box 6B: Box 6B had 5 eggs on June 28th and five 2-3-day old chicks on July 16th. Today there is a pile of at least four and likely five chicks.
- Box 6C: There were five eggs in Box 6C on June 14th. On June 28th we found one whole egg and one cracked egg. There were three chicks out of their eggs and one struggling to get out. See the video below for better detail. Sadly, on July 16th those chicks and eggs were gone and there were four new eggs. What happened? Today there are four newly hatched chicks. Hopefully they will survive to fledge around the first of September, learn to feed themselves, and be able to head south with mom by mid-September.
- Box 201: Although we've seen adult birds entering and leaving this nest, we've not seen any feeding behavior. Perhaps the adults just use it as a roost. We did photograph a chick being fed in this nest on July 25th, but it was likely one of the fledglings from Box 202.
- Box 202: Although we can't access this nest with the endoscope, we have photographed two chicks getting fed, and two chicks fledged on July 25th and were photographed getting fed on top of the nest box on July 26th. There are likely a couple more chicks in this nest, but we can't confirm that.
- Box 204: Although we can't access this nest with the endoscope, we have photographed two chicks getting fed. There are likely a couple more chicks in this nest, but we can't confirm that.
- Box 206: Although we can't access this nest with the endoscope, we have photographed two chicks getting fed. There are likely a couple more chicks in this nest, but we can't confirm that. The banded female is still present and feeding these chicks.

* 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. On May 9th, a pair of PUMA were bringing nesting material to 10A, but they abandoned it and no PUMA nested in these boxes this year.

** "Gourd" is on private property approximately 0.5 miles south of the 3 Crabs parking lot. The property owner reports one nesting pair with four chicks on July 16th.

*** GL=Green leaves. These suggest eggs are forthcoming.

NOTE: Six OPAS boxes, 201-206, are inaccessible to inspection, so we can only observe and draw conclusions. As of July 30th, we observed food deliveries and/or fecal sac removal at Boxes 202, 204, and 206. We observed nesting material delivered to Box 201 and Box 203 but have not observed chicks being fed. Box 205 appears to be empty and used only as a roost.