

3 Crabs Purple Martin Census

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

June 14 – August 14, 2026

Box	Eggs 6-14	Eggs 6-28	Chicks 6-28	Eggs 7-16	Chicks 7-16	Eggs 7-30	Chicks 7-30	Eggs 8-14	Chicks 8-14	Fledged 7-30	Breeding Pairs
1A	0-GL*	5		0	All dead	0	0	0	0	0	1
1B	0-GL	5		0	5	0	3-5	0	0	5	1
1C	Empty	2		4	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
2A	0-GL	5		1	4	0	2	0	0	2	1
2B	3	0	3	0	3	0	2-3	0	0	3	1
2C	Empty	GL		3	0	0	1	Empty	Empty	0	1
3A	6	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	1
3B	0-GL	0		Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	0	
3C	0-GL	5		0	5	0	4-5	0	0	5	1
4A	0-GL	5		1	2	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	0	1
4B	0-GL	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4C	0-GL	4		0	4	0	4	0	4	4	1
5A	0-GL	5		0	5	0	1	0	0	2	1
5B	Empty	Empty		Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	0	0
5C	Empty	GL		0	0	3	0	0	3		1
6A	0-GL	2		4	0	0	4	0	4	4	1
6B	0-GL	5		0	5	0	5	0	0	5	1
6C	5	1	4	4	0	0	4	0	4		1
201	---										0
202	---						2			2	1
203	---										0
204	---						2			2	1
205	---										0
206	---						2			2	1
10A	---										
10B	---										
Gourd	---					0	4				1
	14	45	13	17	39	3	42-46		15	42	19

NOTES FOR August 14th

- 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 were old enough that two could have fledged, but maybe two are buried. Thus, I recorded 3-5 chicks and 0-2 fledged on July 30th. Today,

the nest is empty, and we assume all five chicks 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. The final estimate will be made after taking the nest boxes down and checking them for dead chicks.

- Box 1A: This is very discouraging. On June 28th there were five freshly laid eggs in a clean nest. On July 16 there are only dead chicks in a very messy nest. On July 30th the dead chicks were gone and some work had been done on the nest, but there were no new eggs. The nest appears to be the same today..
- Box 1B: All five eggs we found on June 28th hatched, and the chicks looked healthy on July 16th. On July 30th we found only three chicks that looked close to fledging and we assumed the other two had recently fledged. Today the nest is empty.
- Box 1C: This nest presents another mystery. There were two eggs on June 28th and four on July 16th. On July 30th there were only two chicks that appeared to be only 3-4 days old, and no eggs. Today the nest is empty and there are no dead chicks in it. Since the chicks that were there on July 30th couldn't be more than 20 days old today, we assume they died and were removed from the nest.
- 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. On July 30th there were clearly two fully feathered chicks that looked ready to fledge, but at least one dead chick in the nest. Today the nest empty and we assume the two chicks from July 30th fledged.
- 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. On July 30th we found two fully feathered chicks. These may have fledged and are just back in the nest resting. Today the nest is empty and we assume the two chicks present on July 30th have fledged.
- Box 2C: On July 16th there were three eggs that were laid after June 28th. On July 30th there were no eggs visible and one newly hatched chick on a bed of green leaves. Today the nest is completely bare. All nesting material and the chick are gone. The chick could not have fledged yet, so we assume it died..
- 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. On July 30th the nest was empty and we assumed that all six chicks fledged successfully. We continue to believe that today.
- 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 and July 30th 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. On July 30th, three fully feathered chicks were visible, and possibly a fourth, although two may have fledged. Today the nest is empty and we assume all five chicks fledged successfully.
- 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, On July 30th, Box 4A was bare, with all the nest material removed. It was too soon for those two chicks to have fledged, so we assume they did not survive. Today the box is still bare.
- 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. On July 30th they looked healthy. Today they look like they may have fledged, but came back inside to stay warm.
- Box 5A: All five eggs in Box 5A on June 28th hatched and the chicks looked OK on July 16th. On July 30th there was one fully feathered chick that looked close to fledging, but there appeared to be one or more dead chicks in the nest. Today the nest is empty, and we assume the chick fledged.
- 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 on July 30th there were three eggs. Today we found three hatchlings that look about 2-3 days old. If they survive, they will be the last to fledge, likely after most of the colony begins their migration.
- Box 6A: Box 6A had two eggs on June 28th and four on July 16th. On July 30th there were four hungry chicks. Today there are at least three, if not four fully feathered chicks. Perhaps they have fledged but just returned to the nest to rest and keep warm.
- Box 6B: Box 6B had 5 eggs on June 28th and five 2-3-day old chicks on July 16th. On July 30th there was a pile of at least four and likely five chicks. Today the nest is empty, and we assume all the chicks fledged.
- 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? On July 30th there were four newly hatched chicks. Today they appear healthy and growing. With luck they will fledge by the end of the month and be ready to migrate south with the colony.
- 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. On July 26th the first fledgling emerged from Box 202. 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. We also found fledglings perched on logs getting fed on July 30th.