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REPORT for SUMMER 92

WEATHER: To sum it up in two words is "BAD WEATHER". It was cold and rainy early in nesting season. The rest of the time it was unusually cold.

PURPLE MARTINS: No doubt this was the worst year, at least the 45 years that I've been studying them. The cold and rain the last of April was disastrous. I would guess that 75% of the ASY Males and about 50% of the ASY Females starved to death between 4-22 and 4-27. I personally saw more dead Martins during that period than I have in the last 45 years put together. I had reports that it was like this all over Iowa. Then in late May there was 3 cold days that a few more died. This is the 30th of July and we're having cloudy days with alot of rain. The Temp. is in the 60's and 70's. There are nestling Martins dying because adults can't find food to feed them. I went from 90 Pair to 64.

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS: Although the weather killed nestlings in late April and late May. This was the best year ever for me. With over 275 fledged and a total of 90 nest that had eggs.

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