



W. K. Kellogg  
Biological Station  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release  
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### **Purple Martin “Landlord” Workshop March 5 at the W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary**

**AUGUSTA, Mich.** — Graceful and entertaining, the Purple Martin is a unique swallow species that has adapted to depend almost exclusively on man-made birdhouses for survival in the eastern U.S. If you have open space for these birds’ flying needs or live along a lake or stream, you might enjoy investing a bit of time monitoring your own colony this summer. You can help ensure the longevity of this fascinating bird species that is on the decline in Michigan.

The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary is pleased to welcome back Penny Briscoe to host the workshop, “How to be a Good Purple Martin Landlord.” Briscoe is a local expert with more than 25 years’ experience as a martin landlord and citizen scientist. The workshop will be held in the Sanctuary Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on March 5.

The workshop will discuss how to acquire and install suitable housing, prepare nests for spring arrival, and perform regular nest checks to ensure survival of young birds. Briscoe will also share useful internet resources and discuss recording and submitting data for regional and national citizen science projects. The workshop includes a hands-on nest building portion at the Sanctuary’s Purple Martin gourd rack. Please dress for the weather.

Admission for the event is \$25 for Sanctuary members and \$35 for non-members, and includes information packets. Pre-registration is required by Friday, February 26. Call (269) 671-2510 to register, or register online here: <http://events.anr.msu.edu/PurpleMartinWorkshop20160305/>. To learn more about Purple Martins, visit <https://www.purplemartin.org>.

The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary is located at 12685 East C Ave., Augusta, is part of the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University’s largest off-campus education complex and one of North America’s premier inland field stations. The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary conserves native habitat for migratory and resident birds, and through research, education and outreach helps people gain environmental awareness about our past, present and future.

The Sanctuary is open to visitors year-round. For more information, contact the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary by phone at (269) 671-2510 or email [birdsanctuary@kbs.msu.edu](mailto:birdsanctuary@kbs.msu.edu). Visit us online at [kbs.msu.edu](http://kbs.msu.edu).

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#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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