

### **1) Title of Project**

Purple Martin Houses for Dallas County Conservation Board Park and Wildlife Areas

### **2) Project Description**

This project came about in memory of Tom Lawson, a longtime member of the Dallas County Conservation Foundation, Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and strong supporter of the efforts of the Dallas County Conservation Board (DCCB). After discussing needs in our parks, it was decided that we should install several Purple Martin Houses in a few of our high use parks. A total of eight houses and poles were purchased with the funds provided by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

The houses have been placed by DCCB staff at Sportsman Park near Dawson, Forest Park Museum near Perry, Kuehn Conservation Area near Redfield, and Voas Nature Area near Minburn. All four of these parks were favorite stops for Tom in his birding endeavors.

### **3) Project Goals**

- Provide opportunities for the general public to observe Purple Martins.
- Provide an enhanced birding opportunity for birders who visit our parks (Kuehn Conservation Area and Voas Nature Area are part of the Makoke Trail).
- Provide volunteer opportunities in monitoring the houses.
- Provide an enhanced birdwatching experience for hundreds of elementary through high school age students who attend birding programs through DCCB's environmental education program.
- Provide another form of pest control for park visitors.

### **4) Project Impact**

The Dallas County Conservation Board works to improve the diversity of both habitat and wildlife on all of our areas. The addition of Purple Martin Houses goes hand in hand with the DCCB's existing nest box program which is monitored by local volunteers. Also, by placing the houses in high profile areas in the parks, the park users will be made more aware of Purple Martins in general.