

Minsi Lake Update

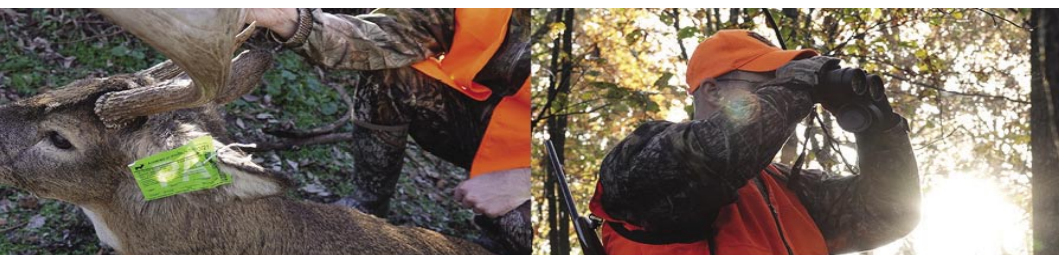
By Jim Wilson Friends of Minsi Lake Secretary

UMBT - Our four Barred Owlets have fledged the two nestboxes we installed for them in the Minsi Lake Greenway in recent year. Three fledged from one box & one from another last month. We got lots of good pics from a trailcam at the box that held one young, we have two trailcams at the box.

Unfortunately, all four Barred Owlets fledged their nestboxes before our Hawk Mountain Sanctuary PhD could band any of them. They were all too young when he, his team & some of us attempted to band them last month. The PhD wanted to wait another week & in that time, the little buggers took off. They were seen "branching" in trees around their nestboxes. We did manage to hang the last of the Barred Owl nestboxes in the Greenway in April. So we now have six nestboxes to check on next nesting season.

Last I checked, our nesting Osprey pair on the platform tower at Totts Gap had not yet produced any nestlings, but were still incubating eggs.

We checked the three Purple Martin nesting gourd towers at Minsi Lake last week. All 36 gourds on the two towers on the west side are occupied by martins; there are 60 eggs in those nests, with many more yet to be laid. And 11 of the 18 gourds on the east side are occupied by martins, though there no eggs yet laid as of last weekend. We anticipate another bumper crop of Purple Martins this year. We are considering purchasing a fourth tower for installation at the Lake.



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