



ESSEX COUNTY PURPLE MARTIN ASSOCIATION
Newsletter April, 2011

Hello everyone !

Here we are again, with our martins returning to our usual spring “ups” and “downs”. Weather can take a terrible toll on martins that are already weakened by their long migration. Below is some good information for when the weather makes us wonder if our birds are able to find enough food.

50 degrees, sunny, no wind = bugs.....50 degrees, overcast, strong wind = few or NO bugs

Although 50 degrees is the often-stated threshold for flying insects, there are factors other than temperature that affect the natural food source. Strong wind, persistent rain, and consecutive overcast and cold days can limit the number of bugs available, even if the temperature reaches into the 50’s or higher. Following their long migration, the earliest returning birds are in a weakened state. Non-stop foraging for a small insect supply can expend as much energy as is gained.

Martins are able to survive intermittent days of no-feed condition, but after about 3-4 consecutive days of no food, they are weakened to the point of not being able to fly even if the weather improves. There is great information available about supplemental feeding in the Archives of the PMCA forum: <http://purplemartin.org/forum/viewforum>

Crickets and Eggs –ala Martin

Here's the feeding/nutrition thinking from PMCA: an adult martin can maintain its weight on 40 crickets a day, if that's all it is eating. One cooked egg will feed two adult martins for one day, so one egg = 80 crickets.

But hopefully, Spring 2011 will be kind and we won't need these recipes after all

How to thaw crickets:

Put the desired amount of frozen crickets in a small sieve and run hot water over them. They will thaw quickly.
 OR Thaw at room temperature.

(Microwave not recommended – they really smell bad if cooked.)

Crickets can be flung, or placed on porch of house, or on inside porch of gourds. If your birds are not yet trained to take supplemental food, placing crickets in their housing is definitely worth a try – many people have reported that the martins ate them even though they hadn't been trained.

How to prepare eggs:

Break eggs into a microwavable bowl. Mix them up well with a fork. Microwave 30-40 seconds, then stir and break up with a fork. Repeat. Repeat once more. Eggs should be cooked but still fluffy. Break the egg up into smaller pieces with a fork. (I use a small potato masher for this process and it works very well.) Put eggs in feeder tray, or fling eggs. It is not recommended to put egg in the houses or gourds.

March 2011 Home & Garden Trade Show - Kinsmen Recreation Complex, Leamington.



And **THANK YOU** to all our volunteers who helped with the set-up / take-down, and who "manned" the booth from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

We couldn't do it without you !!!!!

*.. Paul & Kathy Hamel .. John Balga ..
.. Gilles Breton .. Trudy Friesen ..
.. Cy Poisson .. Lyle Papps ..
.. Bev Ferguson .. Don Bissonnette ..
.. Leo & Pauline Dunn .. Mary Wilson ..*

We have been fortunate to get a corner location for our booth. This provides us with space to display a house and gourds, as well as having two of the supplied 8 foot tables.

This tradeshow is a great venue for us to advertise our hobby. Many people pass through during the weekend, and many of them stopped at our booth to talk, ask questions, and take information.

We hope that annual participation in this show will be another way to grow our club, and result in more safe housing erected by caring landlords.



Thank you !!!!

..... To **Lucille VanEssen** for being our **"SUNSHINE LADY"** for the last few years. Now she and Arnold are traveling the country in their motor home. We wish them much enjoyment, and look forward to seeing them again, whenever they light for a while !!!

..... And to **Pauline Dunn** who has taken over this role of acknowledging events in our members' lives by sending a card of congratulations, condolence, encouragement, or get-well. So, we ask that all members take a moment to let Pauline know of any news affecting our members ...contact information on calendar page).



www.essexpurplemartins.ca The website of our club. Both our **CLUB CALENDAR** and our **NEWSLETTERS** are here, as well as photos of various club activities. (Constructed & maintained by John Balga Please contact him (see calendar page) for submissions or suggestions

www.ontariopurplemartins.ca/ontario This site is to facilitate the connecting of purple martin landlords throughout Ontario with the aim of safeguarding the purple martin which is now officially declared "in decline" in Ontario. (Constructed & maintained by John Balga Please contact him (see calendar page) for submissions or suggestions

<http://www.purplemartins.com> - goes to main website of above (**Purple martin Society NA**) which has the ECPMA link. A website that John has been active in, on our behalf, for several years is the Purple Martin Society NA. This website allows us to participate, in our own page, within a discussion forum that is shared with a much broader audience.
<http://www.purplemartins.com/RTC/forumdisplay.php?f=14> – goes directly to our page

2011 MEETINGS and EVENTS of the Essex County Purple Martin Association

MEETING NOTIFICATIONS: We will make reminder phone calls or emails for each meeting, but you may want to clip out this schedule, or transfer the dates to your calendar. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated to everyone. For the member "host" meetings, in case of questionable weather, individuals should contact the "host" to confirm if the meeting will be held as scheduled. **It will NOT be the responsibility of the "host" to contact everyone.**

- 9:00 am Apr 16. Gilles & Judy Breton's house
- 9:00 am Apr 30. **BLUEBIRD TOUR** – Hosted by Don Bissonnette (Note: **May 7** is rain date)
- 9:00 am May 14 **Member "Host Meeting"** Mary Wilson & Jim Sudds 519-326-1710
- 9:00 am Jun 4 Orchard View Golf Course (to be confirmed)
- 9:00 am Jun 25 **Member "Host Meeting"** John & Barbara Balga's (lunch meeting) 519-776-5777

Jun 28 - *Approximate Time Window for banding*
Jul 9. Bird Banding Contact John Balga to participate. 519-776-5777

9:00 am Sep 17 FINAL 2011 MEETING - Orchard View Golf Course (to be confirmed)

Paul Hamel.....519-738-3476
John Balga.....519-776-5777
Mary Wilson519-326-1710
Dennis Shady 519-738-4411
Pauline Dunn 519-975-0460

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"SUNSHINE LADY"