



## ONTARIO PURPLE MARTIN ASSOCIATION Newsletter ..... February, 2012

*Hello fellow Martin enthusiasts!*

With the 2011 season now well behind us, we are looking forward to a new year with lots of hope and expectations. Many of us will soon be checking over and making sure our housing is in order for the new arrivals. This is always an exciting time of year for us.

This past year was a very productive one:

- John Balga banded over 670 nestlings
- Only 30 member sites reported fledge results, but their total indicates a good year !

2337 +  
Fledged in  
2011 😊

We changed our name to the OPMA - Ontario Purple Martin Association. This name change was made to expand our reach into areas of the province beyond Essex County as well as to reflect the fact that we *are the only purple martin club in Ontario.*

We have 36 paid memberships and continue to encourage more interested people to join our club. Last March, we took part in the Leamington Home & Garden Show, and in September, the Holiday Beach Hawk Festival. As the Hawk Festival is more in line with our club's philosophy and goal, we hope to again participate this September. Stay tuned for more information. I extend our thanks for a job well done to all those who helped out last year with these events.

John continues to improve our website ( [www.ontariopurplemartins.ca](http://www.ontariopurplemartins.ca) ) which showcases our association. Check it out - you will be pleasantly surprised at the range of information and features. We know already that the website is being viewed, and yielding membership inquiries, so this will be a valuable asset to our club, and please remember that John (website) and Mary (newsletters) would both welcome your pictures, stories, ideas, as submissions.

John also has made many contacts with other clubs and associations in the area. Bob Hall-Brooks from the Holiday Beach Migration Organization will be speaking to our group at our opening meeting in February. In the future, we hope to feature more guest speakers.

Our dues remain at \$20.00. This money is used to carry on our club activities - such things as room rental, newsletter printing, guest speakers, website, door prizes, food at our meetings, and any miscellaneous expenses that may come up during the year. John has prepared an itemized report of our annual expenses which is available to you to review.

Thank you for your continued support, and please feel free to express any new ideas that you may have for our club. Let's hope for a good year in 2012 !

*Paul Hamel, Chairperson.*



As of Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 499 scout reports have been filed on the PMCA website. Martins have now arrived in North Carolina and Arkansas. They are on their way !!!!!

## Holiday Beach Festival of Hawks – 2011

For the first time, our group participated in this event on the weekend of Sept. 24-25. John Balga arranged and co-ordinated our involvement, and had the help of some volunteers in manning the booth from 9:00 – 3:00 pm each day. The Festival is quite a busy event, with so much interest in birds of all kinds that our “specialty” was a fitting and welcome addition. John reported that many people stopped by to look at our displays and information, and ask questions.

**HBMO** (*Holiday Beach Migration Observatory*) has a beautiful, informative newsletter called ***The Northwind***. It is well worth a look, and the December 2011 issue can be seen on our display table. Take particular note of pages 12-13, ***“Saving our Martins for the Future”...by John Balga***. For information on the HBMO events and newsletter, go to [www.hbmo.org](http://www.hbmo.org).

### Your martins don't have to starve during bad spring weather !

*Most of you know that supplemental feeding is being practiced by many landlords to help their colonies survive bad weather conditions in the spring. For those who are not familiar with this practice, there are a number of landlords in our club who have trained their birds to accept food, and will be happy to advise you.*

*A handout is available from the display table: **“Feeding Guidelines for Keeping your Martins Alive”** provides information on how to prepare both crickets and scrambled eggs, as well as a guide for feeding amounts required .*

**CRICKETS:** *Once again this year, I will be taking prepaid orders for crickets. Our previous supplier has gone out of business but we were able to negotiate with the new supplier to maintain a price of \$20 per thousand. The order will be placed when martins are reported in northern Ohio (usually mid-late March). I will freeze and repackage them for you, and call you when they are ready to be picked up.*

*If you want to be included in the order, please contact me (Mary Wilson) before mid-March ....  
519-326-1710, or [helenmwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:helenmwilson@yahoo.com)*

### Club Logo

John Balga designed our own club logo for use on T-shirts or other products, available from Silver Stitch Embroidery Inc. in Windsor.

They have a wide variety of clothing and other items available; check out their website at [www.silverstitch.ca](http://www.silverstitch.ca)



**2012 MEETINGS and EVENTS**  
**Ontario 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 ..... Feb. 18 ..... Colasanti’s (Willow Room), Ruthven
- 9:00 am ..... Apr 21. .... Gilles & Judy Breton’s house 519-975-0167
- 9:00 am ..... Apr 28. .... **BLUEBIRD TOUR** – Hosted by Don Bissonnette (Note: **May 5** is rain date)
- 9:00 am ..... May 12 ..... **“Member-Host” Meeting** Al Hamill’s house 519-738-6932
- 9:00 am ..... Jun 9 ..... Orchard View Golf Course (to be confirmed)
- 9:00 am ..... Jun 30 ..... **“Member-Host” Meeting** John & Barbara Balga’s (lunch meeting) . 519-776-5777

Jun 30 - *Approximate Time Window for banding*

Jul 11 ..... Bird Banding ..... Contact John Balga to participate. 519-776-5777

9:00 am ..... Sep 15 ..... FINAL 2011 MEETING - Orchard View Golf Course (to be confirmed)

Our club’s board members are happy to help with any questions and concerns.

Paul Hamel.....	519-738-3476.....	<a href="mailto:kp_hamel@live.ca">kp_hamel@live.ca</a> .....	Chairperson
John Balga .....	519-776-5777.....	<a href="mailto:martinman@hotmail.com">martinman@hotmail.com</a> .....	Website, Membership, Finances
Mary Wilson.....	519-326-1710.....	<a href="mailto:helenmwilson@yahoo.com">helenmwilson@yahoo.com</a> .....	Newsletters, Cricket orders
Dennis Shady.....	519-738-4411.....	<a href="mailto:dennisshady@yahoo.ca">dennisshady@yahoo.ca</a> .....	New member handouts / advisor
Pauline Dunn.....	519-975-0460.....		Acknowledgements: (sympathy cards, congratulation cards, etc.)
Cy Poisson .....	519-776-9713.....		Lending library
Nancy Robson.....	519-326-8557.....		Publicity, advertising
Lyle Papps.....	519-354-6404.....		Natural gourd expertise; innovator



*And soon their purple wings will sweep  
The skies again; our hearts will leap  
To hear that old and well-loved song  
That we have missed all winter long.  
Welcome back, from where you roam,  
Welcome back, to this, your home.*