



ESSEX COUNTY PURPLE MARTIN ASSOCIATION

Newsletter April, 2010

The time has come for us to welcome our feathered friends!

Let us welcome the martins back from their long journey by making sure that our housing units are ready to receive them - they should be cleaned and sterilized to give the returning birds the best opportunity to have a successful year. I know that we are all hoping for a better year than last, but we have to realize that the weather and other environmental issues are truly out of our control. We can only do our best to provide the best habitat for them and nature will take care of itself. Remember that our efforts are helping to maintain the population of the Purple Martins.

Our club depends on its membership in order to continue. The funds received from our dues pays for all of our activities and expenses. Thank you all for attending our meetings and keeping your membership up to date.

We continue to look for ways to promote our club. Nancy Robson is posting our meetings in the various newspapers in Windsor and the county (thank you to Nancy, and also to Trudy Friesen who had done this previously). Through John Balga's networking effort, we now have an Internet link from the purplemartins.com web site. He hopes more people in our club use this site to make postings of their own.

Our club was involved for the first time with the Leamington Home and Garden Show, which was held in early March. We had a lot of exposure to the general public and we gained four new members. We have been invited back next year and the board feels that if we can get the support of our club members we should once again set up our kiosk. I would like to thank Mary Wilson for all the effort she put into making this adventure most successful! She not only was the contact person, she also created all the display boards for the kiosk. John Balga contacted many organizations that provided handouts as well as a Purple Martin house, which was put on display. John also made three bluebird boxes, which were raffled off. I should mention that John wrote a book detailing construction plans for the Taverner house and donated \$100.00 from the profits to our club. John also created a beautiful martin slideshow which played continuously throughout the show. Thank you, John, for all your efforts! Thanks to Lucille and Arnold VanEssen for supplying the computer for the slideshow, and also rigging up a patio umbrella stand to hold their Trio house (the one from the school) as part of our display. Thanks to Catherine Tanner for facilitating receipt of materials coming from the U.S. Finally, a big thank you to all who helped setup, teardown, or "man the booth": Arnold & Lucille, Dennis Shady, John Balga, Trudy Friesen, Don Bissonette, Cyril Poisson, Leo and Pauline Dunn, Bob Tanner and Mary Wilson.

Any new ideas to promote our club and keep our meetings interesting are always welcomed. Our club will continue as long as we have people who are enthusiastic about helping our feathered friends.

Thanks to all,

Paul Hamel, Director

Leamington Home and Garden Show March 5-7, 2010

This was our club's first venture into a venue like this. We were fortunate to get a corner booth – a very good space for our display which included two bird houses on stands. Many people stopped to look at our display, pick up free martin information, and ask questions. We had 3 people sign up as members during this weekend, and several more contacted John Balga later and became members.

Friday night (6-9 pm) proved to be quite slow ... contrary to our expectations. We had the majority of the board on hand to set up our display booth. On Saturday, traffic picked up considerably, and we gained our new members during the shift taken on by Don Bissonette and Cy Poisson – apparently they are very good salesmen ☺

And a thank you goes out also to our president, Paul Hamel, who didn't mention his own participation, but was there for the duration of the setup as well as takedown.

The board felt this show was very worthwhile, and we will be anticipating taking part next year, provided we have club support in terms of volunteers to help out. This is a well-attended event, and we can get a lot of exposure for our cause. We required volunteers for 2 or 3 hour shifts throughout the weekend SO keep this in mind for next year It was not too demanding, and quite a lot of fun !!!!



Thank you to our contributors, who donated goods and information for us to use at the show.

All of these suppliers have incorporated the best features of martin know-how into their products.

We encourage you to visit their websites and see what they have to offer:

CREATIVE UNIVERSE

www.cuent.com

NATURE HOUSE

www.naturehouseinc.com

NIC

www.natural-insect-control.com

PMCA

<http://purplemartin.org/>

S & K MANUFACTURING

www.skmfg.com

PMS, NA Round Table Conferences > WING-TO-WING SHARED RESOURCES CONFERENCES
Essex County Purple Martin Association Conference

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Essex County Purple Martin Association Conference (Ontario, Canada) John Balga is your Conference Moderator.

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Threads in Forum : Essex County Purple Martin Association Conference Forum Tools Search this Forum

Announcement: [Welcome The Hummingbird Conference to the RTC!](#) Views: 5,937
Terry Suchma (Administrator) 07-09-2009

	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Last Post	Replies	Views
	First Martin John Balga		Today 11:33 AM by John Balga	0	2
	On Raising Your PM House John Balga		04-08-2010 07:09 PM by John Balga	0	24
	Purple Martins Here John Balga		04-07-2010 12:02 PM by John Balga	5	64
	Tree Swallows Arriving John Balga		04-01-2010 05:11 PM by John Balga	2	60

Thanks to John Balga, we have our own link on this major purple martin forum. (www.purplemartins.com) John would like many more club members to participate He has been posting here since early 2006 !!!! To post, you must be registered, but it costs nothing, and as this represents another wonderful way to expand awareness of our club, it would be nice if many of our members would participate in conversations here.

From the main link (**shown at top of page**) click on **RTC – Round Table Conferences**, and from that page, scroll down to **“Wing to Wing Shared Resources Conference”**, where Essex County Purple Martin Association is one of the groups listed.

Hmmmmmm.....

I received an email which says *“The US Postal Service sent out a message to all letter carriers to put a sheet of Bounce in their uniform pockets to keep yellow jackets away. I use it when I am working outside. It really works – the insects just veer around you.”* Of the 22 uses for Bounce which followed, I was intrigued by these:

- ❖ It will chase ants away when you lay a sheet near them. It also repels mice.
- ❖ It repels mosquitoes. Tie a sheet of Bounce through a belt loop when outdoors.
- ❖ Golfers put a sheet of Bounce in their back pocket to keep the bees away.

So..... Would mites like Bounce? What might a little square of Bounce do in a martin compartment, under the subfloor – in a gourd, under the nest – in a gourd neck, glued up in there? Would it repel mites, blowflies, wasps? *Well, it might be worthwhile to experiment with this. I wouldn't put it in every gourd or compartment, but a few placed throughout a colony might help to prove, or disprove, this insect-repellent claim. Please give us feedback if anyone tries this !*

[Banding 2010](#)

Call John Balga @ 519-776-5777 to participate in 2010 banding (approximately June 29th–July 10th.)
(Both Gilles Breton & John Balga are licensed to do this work under Master Bander, Phil Roberts.)

[Scout reports from our club members::](#)

Apr. 2 - Trudy Friesen-Leamington - posted **the first Ontario Scout** report on PMCA. Followed by:
Apr 3 - Bob Tanner-Kingsville; Mary Wilson & Jim Sudds-Leamington
Apr 4 – Linda Lyman-Kingsville; Marianne Knapp-Essex
Apr 5 – Ian McDougall, Blenheim
Apr 11 – John Balga, Essex

Many people on the forum are wondering where their birds are. It seems to be an odd migration this year, considering we've had a pretty decent spring so far ! Cold weather in the deep south has delayed migration by several weeks.

Cricket: For those of you who ordered crickets, remember that even if you don't use them because of cold weather, summertime offers a great training opportunity. If you have birds that take eggshells already from any type of raised platform, try to get them to take crickets. Sprinkle a few on top of the eggshells, particularly in the evening, when according to my observations, the parents try to get their kids' bellies filled before nighttime. I had direct experience of this one year, when our birds went repeatedly to a feeder tray in the dusk hours to take both crickets and scrambled eggs back to their young. You may have to fling a few first, but if you can accomplish this in the summertime – getting your birds to accept either flung or feeder-tray food - you will have gained a huge advantage for the next time that spring gives us "martin-killing weather".

MEETINGS and EVENTS of the Essex County Purple Martin Association

All events begin at 9:00 am unless noted otherwise see map next page

Apr 17..... Gilles & Judy Breton's house.

May 1..... **BLUEBIRD TOUR** – Hosted by Don Bissonnette Group to meet at 9:00 am *sharp*
at the parking area of the "greenway hiking trail" (old railway line). You will want to wear boots or old shoes if the weather has been wet.

May 15 **Member "Host Meeting"** **Leo & Pauline Dunn's house** **519-975-0460**

Jun 5..... Orchard View Golf Course

Jun 26 **Member "Host" Meeting:** **John & Barbara Balga's house** **519-776-5777**

Jun 29 - Jul 10..... Bird Banding (approx. dates) Contact John Balga to participate. 519-776-5777

Sep 18..... **FINAL 2010 MEETING** - Orchard View Golf Course (LUNCH provided)

Jan 15, 2011 Location to be determined.

[ECPMA contacts:](#)

Paul Hamel 519-738-3476..... John Balga 519-776-5777..... Mary Wilson 519-326-1710..... Dennis Shady 519-738-4411

www.purplemartins.com **Purple martin Society NA** (with ECPMA link)