



ESSEX COUNTY PURPLE MARTIN ASSOCIATION

December 2008 Newsletter

Hello fellow martin enthusiasts,

It has been a few months since we had our last meeting, so we felt it would be a good idea to touch base with you. We hope that everyone is doing well and we will be looking forward to our next gathering on:

January 17th 2009, (9:00 am) at the Heritage Village on the Arner Townline.

The Purple Martins have made their long trip to the Amazon Basin in South America, where they will spend winter, and sometime in the early spring will begin their flight back to their nesting areas. Our nesting houses sitting empty are only a reminder of the memories we had during the last season.

Mary has compiled the number of birds fledged this past season from the information gathered at our last meeting. To-date we have **1,501 fledged young reported from 15 member sites**. We have many members who have not yet reported, so please give us your information – we would like to finalize our data. Remember that we are an extremely important part of the survival of the Purple Martin because of the breeding habitat that we provide.

As we enter into the year 2009 with a newly appointed Board of Members, we will find ourselves to be in a more positive position than last year. If you are interested in serving on the Board just let us know and we will be glad to accommodate your wishes.

The Purple Martin Conservation Association provides interesting facts and ideas about maintaining our colonies. Their website is www.purplemartin.org.

Here are the “Ten Reasons Why People Fail to Attract Purple Martins” as proposed by this association:

1. Housing placed too close to tall trees or in yards that are too enclosed.
2. Landlord allows other bird species to claim the housing first.
3. Housing placed too far from human housing.
4. Housing not painted white.
5. Housing opened too early.
6. Failure to open Martin housing.
7. Vines and shrubs are allowed to grow up under the housing.
8. Housing not really “built to specifications”.
9. Housing attached to wires, or placed too close to wires.
10. Landlords buy or build housing that can't be easily managed.

Well that's it for now. We hope to see you all in January at the Automotive Museum in the Heritage Village for our breakfast meeting. **The cost will be \$10.00 per person. Dues will also be collected. The cost of dues remains at \$20.00.**

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays Everyone!
The Board of Members