

Merry
Christmas!



ONTARIO PURPLE MARTIN ASSOCIATION

www.ontariopurplemartins.ca OR www.essexpurplemartins.ca

DECEMBER 2016

Message from Paul:

Hello everyone, I hope all is well with each of you! This year turned out to be a good year for some landlords and a very disappointing one for others. The weather again played havoc with many colonies so their numbers were down from 2015. I think that we should keep in mind that no matter how many martins you fledged, each new one adds to the survival of the species. 2017 is fast approaching and hopefully it will bring a lot of joy to our many landlords.

To keep track of how the Martin is doing in our area, it is important that we submit our fledged results each year. John Balga keeps track of these results and submits them to Nature Canada. They in turn can look at the various colonies and make a determination on the success or lack of success that the Martin is having. Thus far John has received approximately 28 replies but would like to finalize the 2016 report and send it into Nature Canada. If you have not sent in your colony's results, you can contact John or me so a final report can be made.

The club continues to move forward. We had five meetings this year and participated in the Holiday Beach Conservation Area Hawk Fest. A colony was set up at Colchester Harbour with four pair fledging approximately 18 young. The colony at Holiday Beach continues to grow and will be a location to promote our club to the public. We have 45 active members who are doing their part to keep the Martin's presence in our area. I can just say keep up the good work and the Martin will continue to be seen and heard.

Remember our first meeting will be at Colassanti's, in Ruthven, in the Willow Room. The date for this meeting is February 25th at 9:00. Richard Carr will be making a presentation on how the Purple Martin is being tracked as it makes its journey to and from Brazil each year. You will be able to order breakfast if you wish. The club will provide coffee and baked goods to enjoy while we have our meeting. Mark this date on your calendar so we can have a great gathering of landlords to start off the New Year.

At this time on behalf of the board of directors, I would like to wish each and every one of you a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year. See you in February!

Paul Hamel, Chairperson

Welcome to our new members !

*Dr. Richard Holley & Carol, Vienna, Ont
Joyce Abbott, Niagara on the Lake, Ont*



The following is a post made to the PMCA forum by a Delaware landlord. I thought his idea for an owl guard is very innovative, and per his experience, has a lot of promise. Here are the most informative portions of the post thread:

Light Weight Owl Cage

Postby ~Ray~Gingerich » Wed Jul 20, 2016 10:11 pm

This is something I started last season after the martins left, was going to test it this year but wanted to get the martins settled in first, I didn't get much time to work on it until today when I realized I better get it done or the birds would be gone. Today I got it all put together except for the top, results so far have been encouraging! There were only a few gourds left to fledge and the birds that had recently fledged came to in check what was going on. Within 5 minutes they were hanging on the sides and zipping thru the space with ease. I think they like the thick strands when they land on it and extra support for tail when hanging on the sides. The fencing has UV protection, is very strong, can't be torn. Each section is suspended on cables with loops on the end, can be opened up if needed. I tried wire owl cages before on my 2" poles but didn't like excessive movement in the wind due to the heavy cage. This cage does not have much weight at all.



I get the fencing in our local major building supply stores, it's 2 inch mesh and I cut every other divider out to enlarge the openings. When stretching the cable I measured each opening to ensure I get a tight stretch of cable, the next space distance changes a little as you work around the pole stretching cable, I also fasten a little bamboo stake to the mesh at about the half way point
Right now the top and bottom are open. I wanted to test it to see if the martins could enter from the sides since it has a little more flex than the wire cages, so it's still an ongoing project.

I have a small shear with the cutter at an angle, the handles are spring loaded so it is easy to cut out the sections. It took about 10 minutes to cut dividers out of one section, just have to be careful not to cut the wrong one.

Update: This evening was the first evening I had a chance to watch the martins come in to roost since I put this up. About 24 came to this rack, half went through the sides right away, the rest perched on the rods or top rows of the mesh before going inside, they didn't seem to care if the mesh was there or not.



Interesting concept. For anyone with a large and heavy gourd rack, like the ones we have at Erie Shores Golf Course, this seems to be a great alternative to a cumbersome wire structure.



★ *The 1st adult scout in 2016 was reported on December 30th in Florida. Won't be long now before we can watch the "Purple Wave" move north!* ★

And in case we need a winter project, here's another useful idea from PMCA forum:

Nest tray made from strips of Styrofoam”,



It's Dow blue foam, 1/2 inch thick. Easy to work with, score and snap or cut with utility knife. Held together with hot glue, easy to slide in and out for nest checks or cleaning. No need to burn a bowl in it, the divider creates a place for the nest in back.

I love the trays - would not want a house without them. With deeper compartments, the trays make checks easier, keep babies and eggs in place too. We also use an automotive mirror (with extendable handle) to speed checks up - no need to slide tray out at all if the mirror shows no eggs yet. A small LED flashlight is very helpful for checking nests in gourds or houses with dark interiors. That's my fave combo, nest trays, mirror, and flashlight.

Resources:

Remember to check out our wonderful website maintained and provided by John Balga, our website manager. www.essexpurplemartins.ca or www.ontariopurplemartins.ca

The Feed Store in Harrow now carries many purple martin products. They are located at 2564 County Road 20 East, in Harrow, and can be contacted at 1-519-738-2261.

The Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of Purple Martins through scientific research, state of the art management techniques, and public education. *The PMCA forum does not require sign-up, is totally free, and is a wealth of information from landlords all across N.A.* www.purplemartin.org

Contact any of the members below with questions and concerns:

Board Members:

Paul Hamel.....519-738-3476 .. kp_hamel@live.ca Chairperson
Lyle Papps.....519-354-6404 Vice-Chair, Natural gourds
Al Hamill519-738-6932 .. alhamill70@gmail.com Treasurer, Finances
Marianne Dyck519-326-0095 .. rudyardmarianne@gmail.com .. Secretary, member records
Dennis Shady519-738-4411 .. dennisshady@yahoo.ca New member advisor
Don Bisonnette..... Advisor
Richard Carr810-706-2344 .. 2009.wipmp@gmail.com Walpole Island, Banding, Geo-Locators
Audrey Festeryga Advisor
Marianne Knapp ..519-726-6180 Advisor
Mary Wilson.....519-326-1710 .. helenmwilson@yahoo.com... Advisor

Volunteers:

John Balga519-800-2504 .. martinman@hotmail.com..... Website
Fern Bellavance...519-257-0013 Lending Library
Nancy Robson.....519-326-8557 .. nancyrobson@gmail.com.... Media
Mary Wilson.....519-326-1710 .. helenmwilson@yahoo.com... Newsletters, Cricket orders



A Martin in December!

Beach Glass Art !!! A friend of mine recently took it up when she had some recovery time following surgery.

Just a few days ago, she brought me this unexpected and thoughtful gift. It is beautiful, and brings me joy every time I see it – just like the martins do !

***Wishing you all
Many joyful moments through the season
..... a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !!!***

