



[www.ontariopurplemartins.ca](http://www.ontariopurplemartins.ca)

*OPMA Meeting on June 24, 2023*  
*Hosted by members Mike & Tiffanie Rajki, Kingsville*

Our chairperson Paul Hamel thanked our hosts Mike & Tiffanie for offering their home and hospitality for our **June Potluck/Social** meeting. Twenty-three people attended, and enjoyed great fellowship, a beautiful day, and a great potluck meal!



As you can see, Mike & Tiffanie live in an area which has many beautiful majestic trees. The best spot, therefore, for a Martin House, is in the front yard! It was a perfect place to gather for our “go-around”, and general discussion, as we could see and hear the Martins as they went about their birding business.



Here are some of the highlights from the “go-around” discussion:

- Most people had experienced losses during the bad spring weather.
- Ron shared that a lady on Facebook had reported the abandonment of her colony, and the speculation was that starling breaches had caused it. Several other members then reported seeing starlings breach their entries. Discussion was that it sometimes is a smaller than average starling, or a very persistent one that can breach a SREH, but also that often times the porch is too low, enabling the starling to bend and then work its way in. When the porch is no more than ¼” below the bottom of the entry, it is felt that the SR entrances are still effective against most starlings.
- Paul told us about the vandalism that occurred in early spring at the Colchester site. The Trio 6-room unit had been totally destroyed and the parts thrown into the lake. It was quickly replaced with another similar house that someone had available, and the Martins went on to raise their young from that one.
- John Balga passed around the PMCA’s “prognosticator”, as well as their “Nestling Growth Charts” for everyone to have a look at. These are great management tools to assess the age of nestlings accurately, and they are very useful for landlords to replace fallen babies to a nest, and for bird banders to determine the nestlings that are within the ideal banding window of 12-20 days.

Check out PMCA’s shop for details on these items:

<https://www.purplemartin.org/shop/132/monitoring-tools/>

**From Meeting to Eating** 😊 After lots of great discussion, the meeting was called to an end, and we were invited to the beautiful back yard area where everyone tucked in to the assortment of foods on the potluck table.



Tree Swallows are made very welcome here!  
About 10 boxes are available, amidst beautiful gardens featuring native plants.



## Banding Event at ERCA site

On **Tuesday July 18th**, Bird Banders Ron Delcourt & Chris Craft attended at the ERCA site, close to the Holiday Beach Conservation Area, to band Purple Martin nestlings.

There were 8 attendees, some of whom were new members, and all were very interested in the process of banding. They learned about, and were surprised at, the detailed information that banding can collect, and the reasons for doing so.

Ron and Chris had banded 299 birds at Holiday Beach the day before and also many at the ERCA site the day before. They spent 6 hours banding on Monday.



Each purple martin is banded with a federal U.S. Geological Survey metal silver band which has an engraved nine-digit code. On the other leg, the bird is banded with one or two colored bands which identify the colony where the martin chick was hatched.

Here is some great information about bird banding in Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/bird-banding/program-overview-contact-information.html>





A data sheet used during the bird banding:

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HOLIDAY BEACH MIGRATION OBSERVATORY

PUMA

STATION PERMIT # 10578

YEAR 2023

LOCATION ERCA

BAND SIZE 10

Band No.	Date	Age	How Aged	SEX	How Sexed	Status	Weight	Wing	Tail	Colony type Number	Cavity	Weight time	Bander	Scribe	Comments
2911-03976	17/7	HY								T14	2		mv	ck	
2911-03977	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03978	↓	↓								T14	6		mv	ck	
2911-03979	17/7	HY								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03980	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03981	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03982	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03983	↓	↓								T14	8		m	ck	
2911-03984	17/7	HY								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03985	↓	↓								T14	9		mv	ck	
2911-03986	17/7	HY								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03987	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03988	↓	↓								T14	12		mv	ck	
2911-03989	17/7	HY								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03990	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03991	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03992	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03993	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03994	↓	↓								T14	01		mv	ck	
2911-03995	17/7	HY								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03996	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03997	↓	↓								T14	02		mv	ck	
2911-03998	17/7	HY								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-03999	↓	↓								↓	↓		↓	↓	
2911-04000	17/7	HY				LDST				T14	04		mv	ck	

