

Starling/Sparrow Trap

Submitted by Ike Kumrow

Living in the country and having 3 dairy farms within a one mile radius, I have a lot of problems with starlings and English House sparrows trying to build in my Martin houses. I sent for the plans to build a starling/sparrow trap and I was not satisfied. To purchase a complete trap out of a catalog cost \$250.00 plus shipping. Therefore, I decided to build my own.

The house is made out of 7/16" hardboard. I built 6 Martin houses with this material, as it is lighter than using 3/4 " red cedar and it will shed water like a ducks back. For the teeter-toder or see-saw, I used light-weight galvanized metal, which I formed on a two by four. It would look like a box that measures 3 1/2" X 3 1/2". Overlap it an inch and pop-rivet it together. Spray it black inside and when the paint is wet throw loose saw dust over the paint. The starlings don't like shiny insides.

A 1/8" metal rod goes through the sides of the trap and through the see-saw box. It must be balanced so that the weight of a quarter will trip it and then it will return again for the next bird. The bird goes down a 3" PVC pipe 6' or longer into a wire basket with a door to get them out.

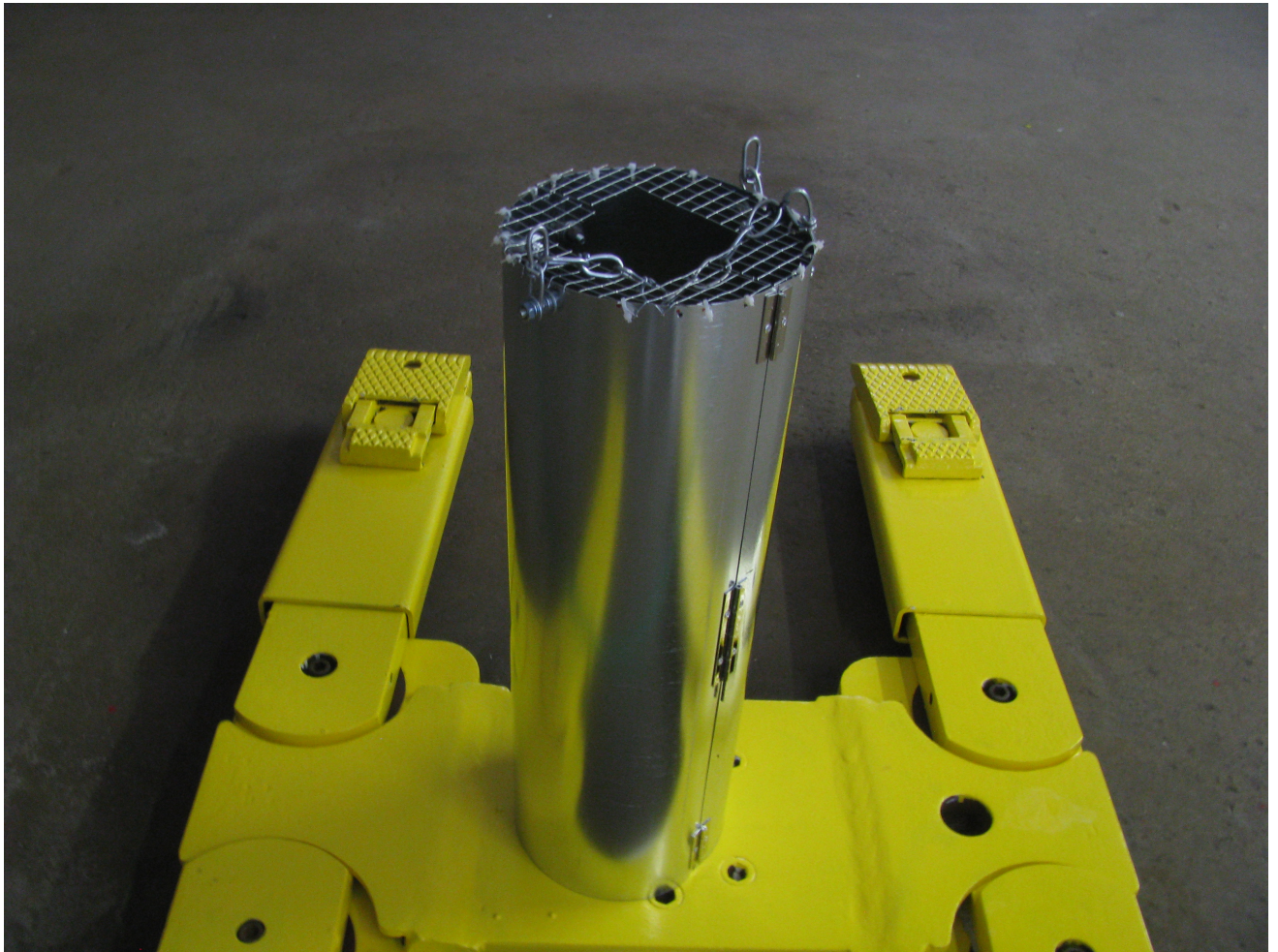
Mount the house on two angle irons using 3" muffler clamps. Mount the angle irons on a post, tree or building, and be sure the house is level. Cost of materials is approx. \$60.00.



Predator Guard

Submitted by Ike Kumrow

After seeing predator guards in the catalog, I decided I could build one. I went to a Heating/Air Condition business place and I told the owner what I wanted. First you cut the metal 13" X 24", and then roll the metal 180 degrees. By doing this with the second sheet, you put the two sheets together with the top and bottom hinge 2" and the middle hinge 4". Drill 1/8" holes and use 1/2" long aluminum rivets and rivet the hinges tight. On the opposite side I bolted three 2" metal pieces too spaced evenly. These pieces swing over on a 1/4 bolt and a wing nut to hold. To prevent squirrels or raccoons from getting through, I fasten 1/2" x 1/2" hardware cloth on top, and fasten with plastic ties. With the chain for hanging hinges, metal, misc. nuts and bolts you have an 8 1/4" diameter metal predator guard at 1/2 of the cost of a purchased one.



WPMA T-shirts available

We have t-shirts for sale to support our organization as we continuously work to bring awareness and education to the public about increasing the population of purple martins. Price is \$16.00 per shirt, with \$4.00 for shipping. Please contact Nicki at the information below to order yours. It also comes in a heather grey, and includes all sizes.



Officers and Board of Directors
Contact Information:

Tom Rank, President	(920) 564-6507	tesrank@yahoo.com
Greg Zimmermann, Vice President	(920) 467-6253	grgz52@yahoo.com
Nicki Schumacher, Secretary	(920) 565-2273	nnjrs@tds.net
Joe Francis III, Treasurer	(920) 467-8255	eijo3@sbcglobal.net
Ike Kumrow	(262) 692-2648	ikeandjan@frontier.com
Les Rhines	(920) 889-0060	musthavemartins@gmail.com
Bob Ring	(920) 840-2098	ringbob@earthlink.net
Richard Nikolai	(920) 734-0828	prairiechicken@att.net

Important Information for all Purple Martin enthusiasts:

Please note all of you who are purple martin enthusiasts, that a five year survey of all breeding birds is about to take place for Wisconsin from 2015-19 across the whole state for **Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II**. Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, Inc. sponsored and edited (Noel J. Cutright, Bettie R. Harriman and Robert W. Howe, 2006) the first *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*. Excerpts of the project (front and back cover) and items relating to purple martins are shown for your interest to submit information.

Birds are important for many of us because they cross borders of various continents and countries, some are year round residents, their ecology may offer insights to relationships to man, and they offer us an intimate relationship and viewing potential. This new study gives a snapshot of what has happened to those recorded species in the former survey conducted from 1995-2000 and changes in the present period mentioned (see attachment for the details on purple martins from *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*). By gathering this information, it gives Wisconsin insights on identifying needs of various species, including our purple martins. The Wisconsin Purple Martin Association is soliciting its members who have colonies within Wisconsin for basic information about their colonies. Purple martins have been declining in Wisconsin and are now classified as a "species of special concern". We prefer that information be passed to Dick Nikolai at prairiechicken@att.net or by giving him a call at 920-734-0828.

Information needed from you is simple.

These items are:

- 1) Name of observer,
- 2) E-mail address if possible or phone number,
- 3) Address of martin housing & address of the landlord in case contact is needed for information questions,

- 4) Indicate dates of any or all of the following (first bird arrivals, nest building, egg laying, hatching, young fledging),
- 5) Total number of adults at colony (for instance 25 pairs) and if possible approximate number of young fledging (attaining flight) for instance 105 young.
- 6) Whether you “**managed**” your colony by caring for the birds through nest checks, at least 40 feet from the nearest tree, have a house that is vertically lowered, manage against sparrows & starlings and follow guidance as outlined in either PMCA or WPMA or “**unmanaged**” colony where you just enjoy the birds by placing the housing up without the items mentioned in the managed colony statement.
- 7) If anyone finds a location of a roost (concentrations of purple martins after young have fledged in August or early September) please give date and location of the nearest intersection of roads and description of location. Location can be an address of a residence. (Example: intersection of Sky Road & Blue Road; ¼ mile east; E2436 Sky Road, Day, Wisconsin on 9-1-15).

Dick Nikolai will collate information for the whole state for purple martins detailing the information requested as well as give other information related to your colony from aerial photos showing habitat and its latitude and longitude. You may choose to enter your own information on E-bird at <http://ebird.org/content/atlaswi/> or at <http://ebird.org/content/atlaswi/news/atlas-data-entry-101-incidental-observations/> which explains a step by step of the process or go through the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology at <http://wsobirds.org/atlas>.

We are trying to make the project manageable for martin landlords by coordinating through one person and keeping it simple so we can gather all purple martin colony information within Wisconsin. Your information will be relayed to the Atlas II project. We appreciate your assistance.