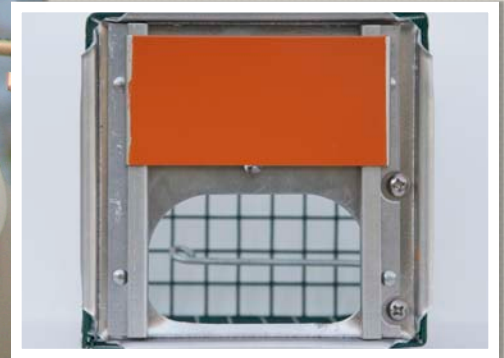




# THE DAWNSONG



Barb Messimer



LEFT, FIRST MARTIN ARRIVAL AT BARB'S. ABOVE, OUR OVAL HOLE UNIVERSAL SPARROW TRAP

## Welcome 2010!

A new year has begun, a new catalog has been mailed and new products abound!

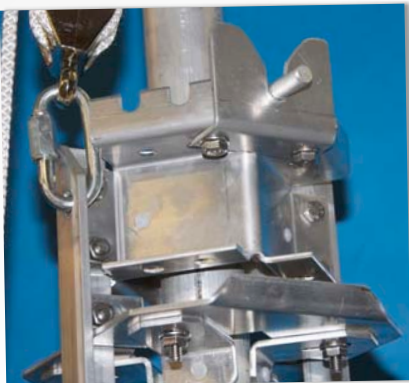
New in 2010: No Rockers. A No Rocker eliminates the swing of Troyer Horizontal and Vertical Gourds, SuperGourds and Excluder Gourds.

The gourd can be hung using the gourd arms on gourd racks or our gourd mounting arms. Visit our [web site](#) for details.

Have you seen the new Troyer Vertical Gourds? It is the first vertical gourd with horizontal depth, 13" deep to be

exact. The photo above shows a pair of martins that arrived at Barb's colony and moved right into a new Troyer Vertical Gourd.

We have updated an old favorite, the UST. You can now choose the new oval opening or the original round.



UNIVERSAL HUB ALIGNMENT PIN



GOT DECOYS?



UNIVERSAL HUB ADJUSTABLE BRACKETS

# Time to get ready for the martins!

The Purple Martins are returning! Are you ready? If not lets get ourselves prepared for their return.

**For gourd racks or multipurpose poles using 2 inch square poles.** Lets begin with some basic maintenance that should be done yearly. If you completely removed your pole and or have access to your steel ground stake: If there are signs of rusting use some sand paper and sand any infected areas. Finish off by using any spray paint that will work on metal surfaces (like Krylon) spray your stake. For those landlords that have our aluminum ground stake, make sure the exterior is clean of debris before sliding your pole over the stake.

Moving along your pole lets oil the pulleys next. Use a good quality oil like 3 in 1 household oil. Do not use WD 40 as it will dissipate quickly. Apply a few drops of oil by moving the pulley sheave to one side of the pulley, place a few drops of oil, then do the opposite side. Repeat for the other pulley.

Use a 3/32 allen wrench to make sure that the set screws holding the top perch rods in place are nice and tight. Is your pole cap still on? We offer replacement pole caps if you need a new one.

## WE HAVE REPLACEMENT ROPES AND POLE CAPS

Last item we want to check is to make sure all the bolts and nuts are nice and tight. Check the hardware on the hubs as well as your rope winder.

If you are planning to upgrade your pole system do so BEFORE the martins return.

**For gourd racks or multipurpose poles on 3 inch square poles.** Most landlords leave the larger units up year round. If possible wash your pole down using car wash. Hose off the soap. Dry the pole

as high as you can safely reach. Wash any of the angle arms too.

Check your cable for damage. You don't want to see any broken strands as this could end up getting lodged in a pulley or the winch.

Examine your brake winch. Some landlords have been adding gear lubricant to the winch. This will make your winch work more smoothly but do this at your own risk. For your own safety always keep your safety bolt in place.

Check to make sure all bolts and nuts are nice and snug. A square will help you to determine if your angle arms need any adjustments.

## CROSS THREADING

When inserting set screws, whether ball tops, to hold the top perches or into the 2" poles, cross threading can occur. What is cross threading? When inserting a set screw if while you are inserting the set screw you insert the screw on an angle, cross threading can occur. A set screw should thread into the tapped hole easily. If the set screw is fighting you, stop. Back out the screw and start again. If you force the set screw in it will ruin the threads.

If cross threading should occur, you can re-thread your hole. Many discount tool stores sell taps for a few dollars. We use 10-24 taps for the top perches and 1/4 - 20 taps for the poles.

If you need to re-thread gently insert the tap into the hole. Keep the tap 90 degrees to the pole and thread the tap in. As you insert the tap you should "feel" the tap threading. You need only make a few turns with the tap to get the job done!



OIL THE PULLEYS



TIGHTEN SET SCREWS



CHECKING FOR SQUARE

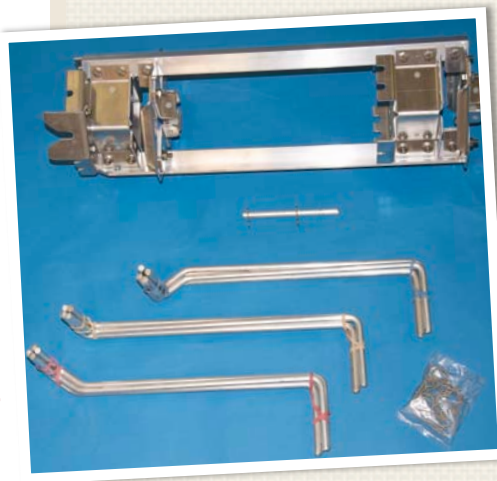


10-32 TAP

## Universal Hub

Round Poles have a reason to rejoice! Our new Universal Hub will accommodate poles from 1" to 2-1/2" OD. This 12 unit hub includes 12 gourd arms, an alignment pin, and 12 hitch pins to secure the gourds onto the gourd arms. You can choose vertical or horizontal gourd arms in stainless or aluminum.

**PLAY IT SAFE, USE POLE GUARDS ON EVERY POLE TO PROTECT YOUR MARTINS FROM CLIMBING PREDATORS!**



## UNIVERSAL HUB

FOR ROUND POLES. THIS 12 UNIT HUB WITH GOURD ARMS, ALIGNMENT PIN AND HITCH PINS WILL ACCOMMODATE 1-2-1/2" OD POLES. CHOOSE FROM ALUMINUM OR STAINLESS GOURD ARMS HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL IN STYLE.

UHA HUB W/ ALUMINUM GOURD ARMS \$143.00

UHS HUB W/ STAINLESS GOURD ARMS \$164.00

## UST

As mentioned earlier, we have updated the Universal Sparrow Trap. So many aluminum houses have crescent openings that the UST needed to be updated to accommodate this entrance. Now you have 2 choices: the original round or the new oval entrance.

## Monthly Specials!

Have you heard? We now offer Monthly Specials! I never now what the special will be, that's Robert's job, but you are sure to get a bargain!



## TROYER VERTICAL GOURD

A VERTICAL GOURD WITH HORIZONTAL DEPTH!. 13" DEEP BY 8" WIDE. THE GOURD HAS AN ACCESS PORT, 4 BUILT IN CANOPIES FOR VENT HOLES, AND INCLUDES THE TROYER TUNNEL IN YOUR CHOICE OF THE CONLEY II (SREH) OR ROUND HOLE ENTRANCE

TVG12 PACK PRICE \$188.00 DELIVERED

## 2010 Purple Martin Arrival Census!

I need your help! I am working on an arrival map. If you would like to participate simply [email](mailto:purplemartin@purplemartinproducts.com) me your first martins arrival date, sex of the martin, and your location (city, state). As a thank you you will receive a \$5.00 coupon you can redeem with your next order of \$50.00 or more.



## POLE CAPS

THE FINISHING TOUCH TO ANY POLE. FOR 2" SQUARE POLES CHOOSE FROM OUR BLACK PLASTIC PYRAMID CAP OR A BALL TOP, AND FOR 3" SQUARE POLES WE HAVE A BALL TOP AVAILABLE.

BT2 BALL TOP FOR 2" \$24.95  
BT3 BALL TOP FOR 3" \$24.95  
PC PYRAMID CAP \$3.95

NOTE: YOUR GOURD RACK SYSTEM INCLUDES A POLE CAP.

# How To: Gourd Cap Liners

Are your liners falling out of your gourds cap? Need an easy way to make a whole lot in a very short time.? Then try this. Go to your local craft store, and purchase a circle cutter (I have the Fiskars brand). Also pick up some poster board. Poster board comes in lots of colors and thicknesses.

Once you have your measurement, follow the instructions provided with the circle cutter to adjust the circle to the correct size.

Place an old magazine underneath what your cutting. Place poster board (or like) on top of that then your circle cutter. Push down on the spring loaded paper holder and spin your circle cutter

around. Push firmly, with your free hand, above the cutting blade, moving the cutter in the circular motion.

When your circle is complete remove your liner test fit. You may need to make a few adjustments in size.

Insert the liner into the cap. The liner should fit snugly, but if you want you could place a dab of caulk between the lid and the liner.

Try various different mediums that could be used as liners. As long as you can tighten the lid to the gourd, the type of material you use, as long as it is safe for the martins, can be used. I have found many different mediums of paper at craft stores. Also consider styrofoam, aluminum foil, cardboard, used political signs, the skies the limit.

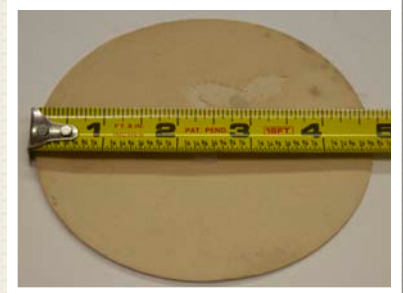
Have fun!

---

**LINERS KEEP LIGHT FROM ENTERING THE ACCESS PORT.**

---

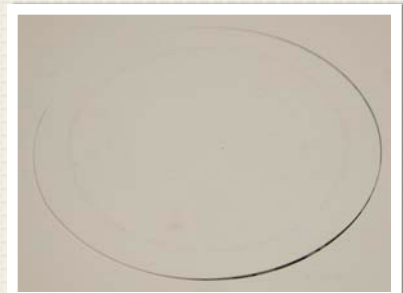
## CAP LINER



MEASURE



FISKARS CIRCLE CUTTER



CIRCLE CUT



TEST FIT



# PHOTOS



## CHECK LIST

GOURD RACKS, GOURDS

NESTING MATERIAL: PINE NEEDLES, CORN FODDER, STRAW

POLE GUARDS

BE PREPARED, HAVE SOME CRICKETS OR MEALWORMS ON HAND!

START TO TRAP AND SHOOT THOSE PESKY STARLINGS AND SPARROWS.

NEED REPLACEMENT PARTS? ROPE, CABLE, POLE CAPS OR HITCH PINS? WE HAVE THEM!

## Ramblings...

I want to thank you for taking the time to download, read, and pass out my Dawnsong newsletter. Im happy to hear so many of you enjoy it!

Weather has been brutal this year. Here in PA we have had 60" of snow to date. Down South it just cant seem to warm up. I sure hope we wont have a repeat of the cool wet summer of 2009. Prepare yourself, order crickets and mealworms.

If you host purple martins do you also host tree swallow and bluebirds? Remember to provide housing for our feathered friends. Gourds can be hung from shepard's crooks as an easy alternative. Just make sure you have a

small 1-1/2" size entrance hole for the eastern bluebird, and a 1-9/16" for the mountain and western bluebird. This will stop the starlings from causing harm.

Speaking of Starlings, the cooler weather is a great time to set up your repeating bait traps. Starlings and sparrows flock to these baited traps during the cool weather. Need a bait trap, here is what I [recommend](#).

My forum is growing by leaps and bounds. If you are looking to join a password protected purple martin forum thats fun as well as informational [click here](#).