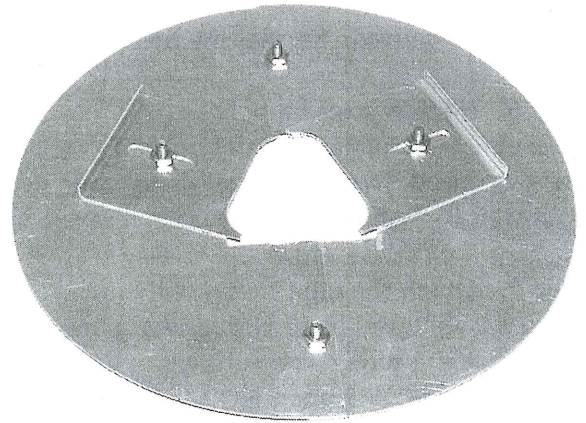


Triangular Pole Guard Assembly Instructions



Pole Guard Parts List

Q'ty Part Description

- 2 aluminum top halves
- 2 sliding aluminum plates
- 4 #8 x 3/8" pan head stainless steel machine screws
- 2 #8 stainless steel flat washers
- 4 #8 stainless steel nuts

Not shown:

- 3 aluminum pole clamp pieces
- 3 bolts
- 2 nuts
- 1 wing nut
- 2 #6 x 1/4" pan head sheet metal screws
- 1 aluminum tube

Please read all instructions completely before assembling!

Assembly & Mounting Instructions

To maximize its effectiveness, mount the pole guard as high as possible above the ground, yet low enough that it won't interfere with the lowering of your martin housing for nest checks. In most situations, the top of the guard will be about 4 feet off the ground. Do not let lanyard ropes (such as those on the Trio Grandpa martin house, or those on many gourd rack systems) dangle over the side of this guard — snakes and raccoons can use a rope to climb around guards. Likewise, do not allow tall vegetation to grow up around the guard.

Step 1: Attach the pole clamps

Attach the three pole clamps at your chosen mounting height (ideally about 4' off the ground) using the three bolts, 2 nuts and 1 wing nut, making sure to be level. Mount the clamps just below the green push button on either the bottom or middle pole section, keeping in mind that the bottom of the guard should be a minimum of 2' above the ground.

Step 2: Assemble the top plate

Using the two #8 x 3/8" pan head screws, and corresponding nuts, assemble the two halves of the top plate together forming an overlapping circle. If overlapped correctly, these two top halves will form a circular disk. Screws should be pointing toward the ground after installation on the pole. Do not tighten.

Step 3: Attach the adjustable plates

Attach the two adjustable plates to the underside of the top round disk using the two remaining holes in the disk. Use the two #8 x 3/8" Phillips pan head machine screws, the two #8 flat washers, and two #8 steel nuts. Do not tighten the plates at this stage.

Step 4: Pivot disk open

Remove one of the 3/8" screws and #8 nuts used in step #2, and pivot the disk open.

Step 5: Attach disk to pole

Slip open disk around the pole above the pole clamps and close. The protruding pair of 3/8" bolts should point towards the ground. Reinstall the bolt and nut. Now tighten the nuts on both bolts.

Step 6: Tighten plate on pole

Adjust the two aluminum plates until they are tight against the pole. The best way to do this is to push in on the tabs of the two plates simultaneously, using your two thumbs and two forefingers. Everything should be centered and symmetrical. Tighten the two nuts that secure the two adjustable plates.

Step 7: Attach the tube

There is a right way and a wrong way to mount the aluminum tube. Doing it the wrong way could permanently distort and crease the tube. The right way: with the crimped end of the tube up, place it around the pole **BELOW** the top plate by spreading it open **NO MORE THAN THE DIAMETER OF THE POLE!** It should now slide up over the plate by spreading it open only about an inch or two.

The wrong way: **IF YOU ATTEMPT TO SPREAD THE TUBE OPEN** the entire amount necessary to fit directly over the top plate, you could bend and permanently distort the tube.

Step 8: Tighten screws on tube

Rest the crimped upper lip of the tube on the top of the circular mounting plate. Note that one long edge of the tube contains two large holes, the other edge two small holes. **THE LARGE HOLES MUST OVERLAP THE SMALL** before receiving the two #6 x 1/4" Phillips pan head sheet metal screws, or the screws will strip out the metal. Align the two holes and start the 1/4" screws through the large holes, into the small. **DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN** the screws or the metal may strip. Assembly is now complete.

This pole guard is designed to wobble slightly when touched by a pole-climbing predator. This movement, along with the guard's slipperiness, makes it doubly affective against pole-climbing predators.

How to Care for Your Pole Guard

To lengthen the longevity of your pole guard and to maintain its anti-predator slipperiness, wax the outside of the 8" diameter x 24" long aluminum tube with car paste wax, or carnauba wax. Failure to do so may render the aluminum rough and pitted after long-term weathering and/or oxidation has occurred. A rough outer surface to the guard could possibly enable a pole-climbing snake to negotiate its way around the guard. Should the aluminum tube of your guard become rough to the touch after several years of use, gently polish its sides with fine steel wool, then apply another coat of wax.

During the non-martin season, bring your pole guard inside out of the weather, unless you use it as a predator guard on your bluebird house, or as a squirrel baffle on your bird feeder poles.

Please note: In areas of the country with large snakes, a net trap may be needed in addition to a pole guard! Simply wrap "bird netting" around the pole; the photo depicts this net trap under the rope winder. See Purple Martin Update 12(4) for more details.

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Photo by Steve Kroenke