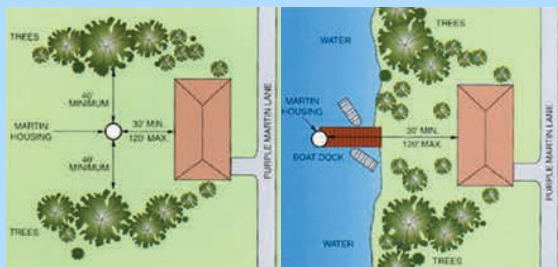


Interesting Facts

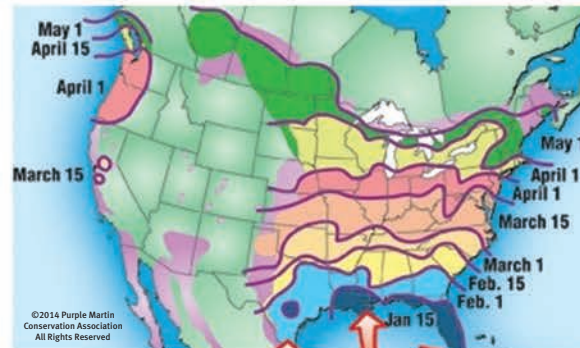
- Martins lay 4-5 eggs at a time, which are incubated for about 15-18 days.
- To help attract Martins to our colony, play a Dawn Song recording from PMCA and utilize a plastic Purple Martin decoy on your housing or pole. A decoy has been proven to provide protection from Hawk attacks as Hawks will attack the decoy by mistake instead of a Martin.
- The same Martins return each year and may abandon the site if the housing they are used to is gone or drastically altered. To safely replace a single active house, place the new housing near the housing you plan to remove, and give Martins an entire season to get used to it. Do not remove the active housing until some of the Martins have accepted and bred in the new housing for at least one season.
- Martins have very specific aerial space requirements. Housing should be placed in the center of the most open spot available: about 30-120 feet from human housing. No trees within 40-60 feet should be taller than the Martin housing. Generally, the farther the housing is placed from trees, the better. Use the diagrams below to help visualize good Martin house placement.



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The More You Know

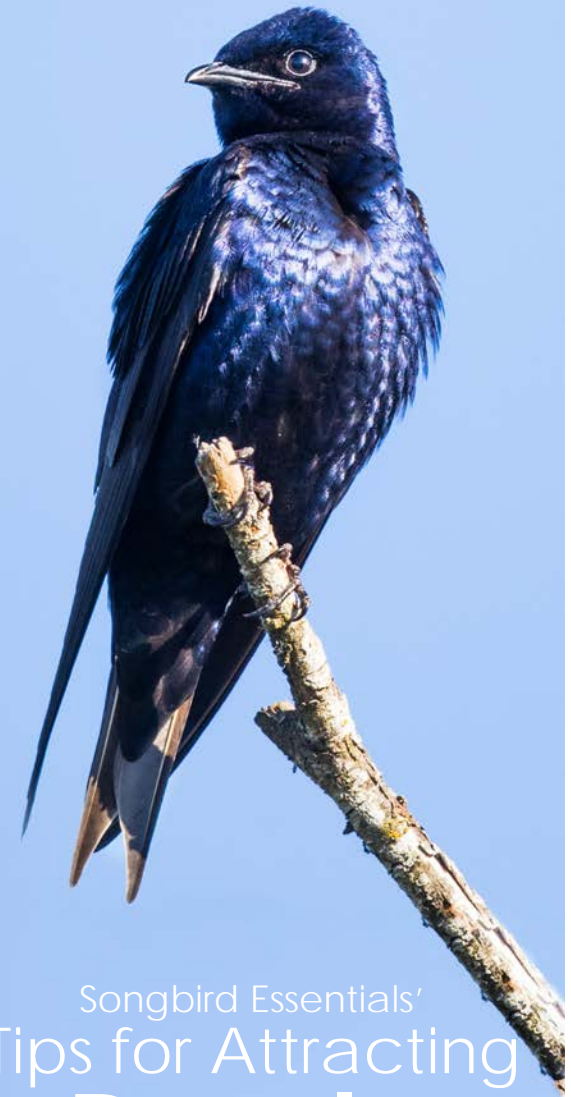
Martins are migratory birds that travel to South America during the winter months, leaving a small window for landlords to attract their prospective tenants. Time is of the essence where this is concerned. The map below details the arrival of scouts to the areas, by which time you will want to have your yard prepared. Purple Martins will be in the area to settle once scouts are seen for 6-8 weeks.



Want To Know More?

Visit www.SongbirdEssentials.com for information on Purple Martins and more!

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Tips for Attracting
**Purple
Martins**

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About Purple Martins

Purple Martins are the largest of the swallow family. Their large flocks have even been seen on radar after taking flight!

East of the Rocky Mountains, they are solely dependent on human-provided housing. This dates back to colonial times, when the Native Americans first offered them gourds as a housing solution as they utilized the Martin's alarm call at any sign of danger. Since, the birds have shown a preference towards natural & man-made gourds and aluminum housing.



Food

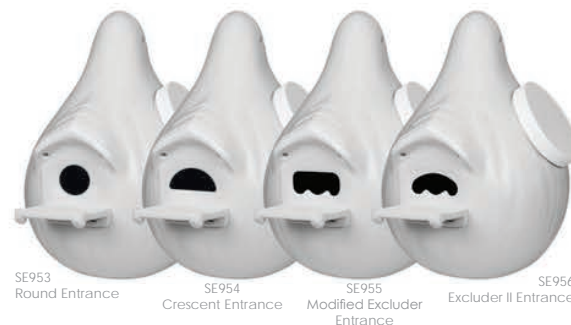
Purple Martins are foragers and survive mostly on flying insects - dragonflies being their favorite - and spiders. Other tasty treats include wasps, winged ants, some bees, moths, and butterflies. They eat while they fly, most time high in the air, but sometimes you can spot them snacking and drinking while flying low over the water where bugs are plentiful. To help Purple Martins when insects aren't available during cold or rainy weather, you can provide live meal worms and scrambled eggs.

Nesting & Housing

There are two main styles of housing for Purple Martins - gourds and condos.

A gourd houses only one Martin in a single cavity. It is less prone to attract Starlings and Sparrows, which make it a nice choice. Hanging multiple together on a pole or rack system keeps them close enough that the birds can still be social.

A condo unit consists of several cavities combined into one housing unit. This allows the colony to all nest in one place, which makes it easier to attract the Martins.



Nesting & Housing Cont'd

Martin House Basics

No matter which type of house you decide on, or even if you decide to utilize both, there are a few things you will want to ensure you keep in mind when shopping for the perfect house for your back yard.

- Ensure ease of clean out and inspection. A quality gourd will include a closure cap at the top made to keep these processes simple. Light weight housing is also important for these processes.
- Purple Martins overheat easily. To help prevent this, choose well insulated housing with adequate ventilation in the color white. Why white? It reflects all the sun's harsh rays, assisting in cooler climates for your Martins.
- Where cavity size is concerned, the bigger the better. Offer a cavity of no less than 6"x6"x6".
- Protect your Martins against predators - both in the sky and from the ground. Placing an owl guard at the entrance way protects against both owls and hawks, while placing a baffle around your pole keeps snakes, raccoons and other ground predators at bay. Choosing a custom baffle for your pole ensures the highest security.
- Houses offer different shaped entry holes, each offering a different level of protection. What you choose depends on the predators in your area.



SELSD14R - Alamo Condo
SELSAAR - Gourd Rack

