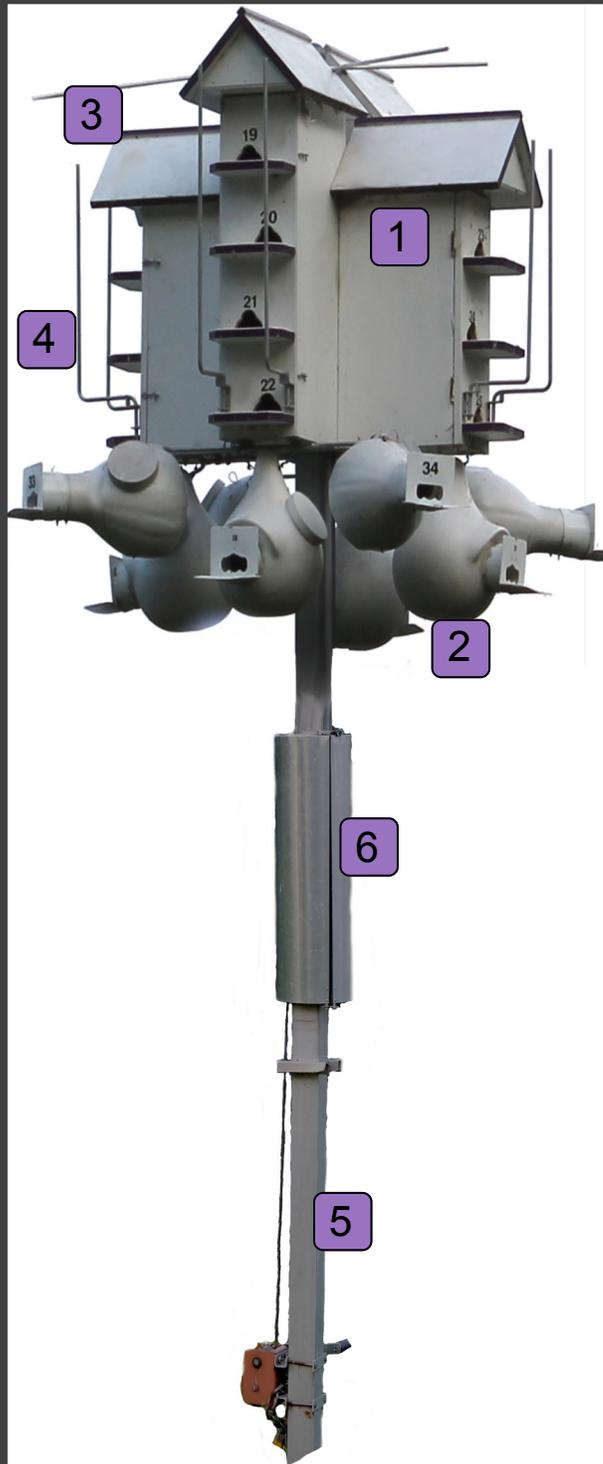




# PURPLE MARTINS

# MARTIN HOUSING



Purple Martins are cavity nesters. Traditionally, they build nests in tree holes, rock crevices and other natural cavities. Hundreds of years ago, people began providing man-made housing for the Purple Martins to build nests, lay eggs, and raise young.

Today in the Eastern United States, martins nest almost exclusively in cavities found in man-made houses and gourds. Similar to human houses in your neighborhood, not every martin house is the same. Houses may differ in size, style and material however many units have the same basic parts.

## 1 Compartment House

A male and female martin will nest inside each individual compartment. A house is like an apartment building with many martins living as neighbors.

## 2 Gourd House

Martins also built nests inside natural and man-made gourds. A drilled hole provides a door for easy entering and exiting.

## 3 Perch Rod

Provides a place for the martins to sit while they clean feathers and watch for predators.

## 4 Owl Guard

Vertical bars placed across the front of the house to prevent owls and hawks from reaching into the cavities.

## 5 House Pole

Elevates the house and allows for it to be lowered for monitoring and cleaning.

## 6 Predator Guard

Keeps predators like raccoons and snakes from climbing the pole to the house.



The Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of Purple Martins through scientific research and public education.

With a team of people that includes biologists, educators, public members and bird enthusiasts the PMCA works to carry on the thousand year old traditional of caring for Purple Martins and enjoying the birds' presence in their lives.

You too can become involved with the conservation of Purple Martins in a variety of ways:

- Learn to identify the Purple Martin
- Visit a colony in your neighborhood
- Join the PMCA
- Become a Purple Martin landlord
- Participate in research projects
- Volunteer with the PMCA
- Attend events and workshops

Contact us today and together we will make a difference!

Purple Martin Conservation Association

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