

PURPLE MARTINS

Identification

Purple Martins are native songbirds in the swallow family. They are the largest swallow in the family and the only martin in North America.

Their name comes from the iridescence purple feathers that are predominately on the adult males. Female Purple Martins are duller in color with gray on their head and chest, and a light lower belly.

Young Purple Martins are called juveniles. To spot a male juvenile, look for a martin with purple spots on his chest. He is starting to grow his full purple plumage!

In eastern North America during the summer, look for Purple Martins perched on man-made martin houses that many people put up in yards. In the West, you will find them nesting in natural cavities of trees and cactus.

Keep your eyes high in the sky, as martins soar to catch their favorite food — flying insects!



Adult Male



Adult Female



Juvenile Male



Juvenile Female



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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