

PURPLE MARTINS

PREDATORS

Purple Martins are migratory songbirds that build nests, lay eggs and raise young in man-made houses and gourds. Even so, they are vulnerable to predators. If a housing unit is not properly protected, the martins may be attacked by predators like raccoons, owls, hawks or snakes. Using predator guards is the best way to protect purple martins!

Raccoons: Extremely intelligent and surprisingly agile. Known for climbing poles of purple martin housing.

A properly fitted pole guard should discourage this predator.



Snakes: Excellent climbers with a keen sense of smell. Have the ability to climb house poles and navigate around porches.

A stovepipe baffle or cone-shape pole guard may be effective in stopping the climb.

Owls: Skillful hunters with surprising strength. Able to reach into the nest cavities and even remove the doors off housing. Owl guards fitted on the outside of houses can prevent these predators from perching on the porches and gaining access to the cavities.





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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