

PURPLE MARTINS

Swallow Family Tree

Purple Martins are native songbirds in the **swallow** family. Several other species of swallows are found in North America. Each is unique in color, size, shape and behavior. Look for swallows in your backyard, flying near water and over open ground or perched on wires!

The **Purple Martin** is the largest member of the swallow family in North America. Purple Martins nest in man-made bird houses and gourds. Soaring high in the sky, they feed on flying insects. Adult males are bluish black in color with a purple shine. Females and juveniles are lighter in color with more grey.

Tree Swallows are dark above and white below. Adults have a metallic blue-green color on their backs. They forage over fields or water for insects, but will sometimes eat berries. They build nests in birdhouses or tree cavities, often including feathers that have been shed by other birds.

Barn Swallows nest on man-made structures such as bridges, barns or house eaves. Their nest is a partial bowl of mud formed with grass. They have long forked tails and long pointed wings. Their upperside is dark blue-black and the underside is whitish to orange.





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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