

*Support Purple Martin  
conservation*

**W**hen you purchase a Wild Birds Unlimited Purple Martin House a portion of your sale supports the Purple Martin Conservation Association. For more information access [www.wbu.com](http://www.wbu.com) or [www.purplemartin.org](http://www.purplemartin.org).



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*Enjoy*  
**Purple  
Martins**



## *Interested in becoming a Purple Martin landlord?*

**P**urple Martins are almost totally dependent on manmade housing. They are not capable of excavating their own cavities for nesting. Those that live in the desert and West still use natural cavities because they can find them there.

Purple Martins live in colonies and their social antics can be quite entertaining. They often will dive and swirl around in the sky. In late spring adult males will perform the "Dawn Song" singing loudly while soaring high above the colony to attract other birds.



### **Select a good Purple Martin house**

Each house should have the following:

- Easy access for monitoring and cleaning.
- A white or light color exterior.
- Correct entrance size - 2 1/8 inch, although 1 3/4 to 2 1/2 inches may work.
- A compartment size of 6 x 6 x 6 inches minimum.
- Mounting hardware that allows the house to be raised and lowered.
- Adequate ventilation and drainage.
- Be made of rainproof and durable materials.

### **Proper placement is important**

- Select a site that has sufficient open space and is 40 feet or more from the nearest tall tree.
- Place the Purple Martin house 40 feet to 100 feet from residential houses. Being closer is better than being farther away, but avoid placing the house too close to wires that are connected to garages, utility poles, etc. The wires may make it too easy for predators to climb and leap onto houses.
- In spring wait until you spot Purple Martin scouts before you open the house. If you are establishing a new colony, wait four weeks after seeing scouts to open the house. Open one or two compartments initially to try to prevent competing birds from taking over the house.
- Do not allow starlings or English House Sparrows to nest in Purple Martin houses.