

## CONNECT WITH US AT NATURE CANADA

We will help you with any questions, comments, or suggestions you might have.

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## OUR PARTNERS

Nature Canada is proud to partner with:



# PURPLE MARTIN PROJECT



## WHAT IS THE PURPLE MARTIN PROJECT?

The program has three key elements:

### EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

The Purple Martin is closely connected to people as they breed almost exclusively in apartment-like bird houses provided by their human 'landlords'. Effective community engagement and stewardship is therefore a key element for the conservation of this human-dependent species. We aim to generate awareness and involve public schools, university students, First Nations, Purple Martin landlords, community volunteers and naturalist clubs in all of our activities.

### HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

A lack of quality breeding habitat poses an urgent threat to the survival of this species. We are working to address habitat concerns by installing new Purple Martin houses and updating existing houses. Improving breeding conditions helps to provide protection against nest-site competitors and predators as well as make



houses more accessible for monitoring and maintenance.

### MONITORING AND TRACKING

Small tracking devices (geolocators and GPS) are placed on adult birds by trained and certified individuals. The birds wear the device like a backpack until we can retrieve them the following spring.

Each summer we conduct frequent community-based monitoring of important breeding sites and vulnerable pre-migratory roost sites where Purple Martins gather with other swallows in large numbers.

researchers to track the migration and wintering activities of Purple Martins in order to better understand the risks they face. By learning more and engaging communities we can help to identify solutions, improve breeding success, and recover populations.

## WHY IS THIS WORK IMPORTANT?

The Purple Martin is one member of a group of species called aerial insectivores which feed exclusively on flying insects. Canadian populations of aerial insectivores are experiencing sharp declines and the cause is not clear. Our project began as part of an international partnership with university

## HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

Learn how to identify tagged birds from this study and report them back to us. Look for:

**Leg Bands:** one silver band and one purple band with white lettering.

**Tracking Devices:** Part of the small device can usually be seen sticking out of the feathers on the birds' lower back.



**If you're a Purple Martin landlord** you're already making a significant contribution towards the conservation of these birds. We encourage you to mentor others and pass on your skills. It is also important to frequently monitor the birds. Conduct weekly nest checks if your martin house can be safely lowered and consider improving the habitat for your colony.

**Help us identify roost sites:** If you have any information on possible roost sites, please let us know.

**Connect or volunteer with Nature Canada:**  
[naturecanada.ca](http://naturecanada.ca)



**Join our partners at the Ontario Purple Martin Association – report your colony and important information.** This helps us monitor species status and identify sites for habitat improvement:  
[essexpurplemartins.ca](http://essexpurplemartins.ca)

**Offer to help a Purple Martin Landlord or consider providing crucial habitat.** The Purple Martin Conservation Association has excellent resources for aspiring landlords: [purplemartin.org](http://purplemartin.org)

**Tell others about the project and encourage them to become involved.**

