



Purple Martin Roost Alert

The Purple Martin is the largest of the swallows found in North America. It migrates from South America to the U.S. and Canada beginning in late January to nest and rear its young. Following its nesting season, it then migrates back to South America for the winter.

Prior to migration, this particular species of bird gathers in great flocks. They spend most of the day feeding on flying insects to build up their energy stores for their long flight across the Gulf of Mexico. At night they come together to “roost” or rest, sometimes in numbers up to one million individuals. This is what you are witnessing: a “communal roost”. This roosting behavior will continue until late August. It is perfectly all right to observe them as they come to roost, but it is imperative that they are not disturbed. Disturbances put them under a great deal of stress and may cause them to find another area to roost, taking away this rare opportunity to observe this wonder of nature.

Please stay a moderate distance away from the trees and refrain from making loud noises. Once they have landed, leave them to rest. Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

For more information:

www.houstonaudubon.org 713.932.1639

