



PURPLE MARTIN

The Purple Martin is the largest swallow in North America. It is one of the earliest spring migrants in Tennessee arriving by the first of March, and can be found nesting in every county in the state. Although it nests in single cavities in western United States, east of the Rockies this species depends entirely on housing structures provided by humans. Individuals will return to the same nesting colony every year after a long migration from South America. Departing Tennessee by early September, the Purple Martin travels to the Amazon river basin in Brazil to spend our winter months.

Did You Know?

- Native Americans started the practice of providing nest structures for martins. The Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians hung hollowed calabash gourds from saplings near their homes to serve as martin houses.
- Quote by John James Audubon (1831): "Almost every country tavern has a martin box on the upper part of its sign-board; and I have observed that the handsomer the box, the better does the inn generally prove to be."
- The Purple Martin not only gets all its food in flight, it gets all its water that way too. It skims the surface of a pond and scoops up the water with its lower bill.
- The oldest known Purple Martin in the wild was 13 years 9 months old.

Otter Chatter Newsletter

2017 Spring Programs

Bird Club:

Saturday, March 18 at Overall Street Trail-Head
Saturday, April 1 at Nickajack Wetlands
9AM

Puppets on the Porch:

Saturdays in April and May at 3PM

Nature Play Days:

Wednesday, May 10th, 17th and 24th at
11AM

Animal Encounters:

Saturdays in April and May 1:30PM-2PM

Spring Break Week Programs:

Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt

Spring Break Fun Day

Hammock Hang Out

Animal Encounters with a Craft

Family Adventure Day

Duck Day

**Please call or email the Wilderness Station
to register. 615-217-3017
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov**



Barfield Crescent Park Trail Map

- Wilderness Station
- Parking
- Trailhead
- Shelter
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Viewpoint
- Campsite
- Fire ring
- Way point
- Mileage
- Paved Path
- Red Paved Path - Marshall Knobs
- Red Trail - Marshall Knobs
- Gravel Road
- Blue Trail - Valley View
- White Trail - Rocky Path

