



## Legend

### Purple Martin Roost Sites

-  Potential Roost using NEXRAD radar (2004)
-  Confirmed Roost

An additional confirmed roost is located in Rockwood, MI (Monroe County) but coordinates were not provided.

Adapted from the Purple Martin Conservation Association website: <http://www.purplemartin.org/roost/>

Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) are highly social birds. After leaving the nesting colony, they form large, communal roosts where they sleep at night prior to and during migration. Migratory Purple Martin roosts are typically associated with larger water bodies. Reed beds with low, thick brush are commonly used as roost sites. Chosen roost sites usually provide sanctuary from predators and a micro-environment warmer and less windy than land roosts which sometimes form in clumps of trees in urban and suburban settings. Martins also roost on man-made structures, particularly bridges over water and on pipes and girders of petroleum refineries.

Scores of martin roosts are thought to exist in the eastern half of North America, and some can be very large, numbering thousands or tens of thousands of birds. Many martin roosts are large enough to be detected by Doppler / NEXRAD radar. As the martins leave the roost in early morning, going in all compass directions to forage for the day, their synchronous departures show as donut-like rings on radar maps. These rings gradually fade out after dawn as the birds spread out to foraging areas.

Banding studies indicate that martins using a particular roost may come from a wide geographic area. Individual martins may use a roost for several weeks before migrating, but the roost itself may last 8-12 weeks or more. Once established, martin roosts may be reused for many consecutive years. Roosts generally form from late June to early August in southern USA and mid-July / early August to mid-to late August in northern USA. Most roosts are vacated by early September at all latitudes.