

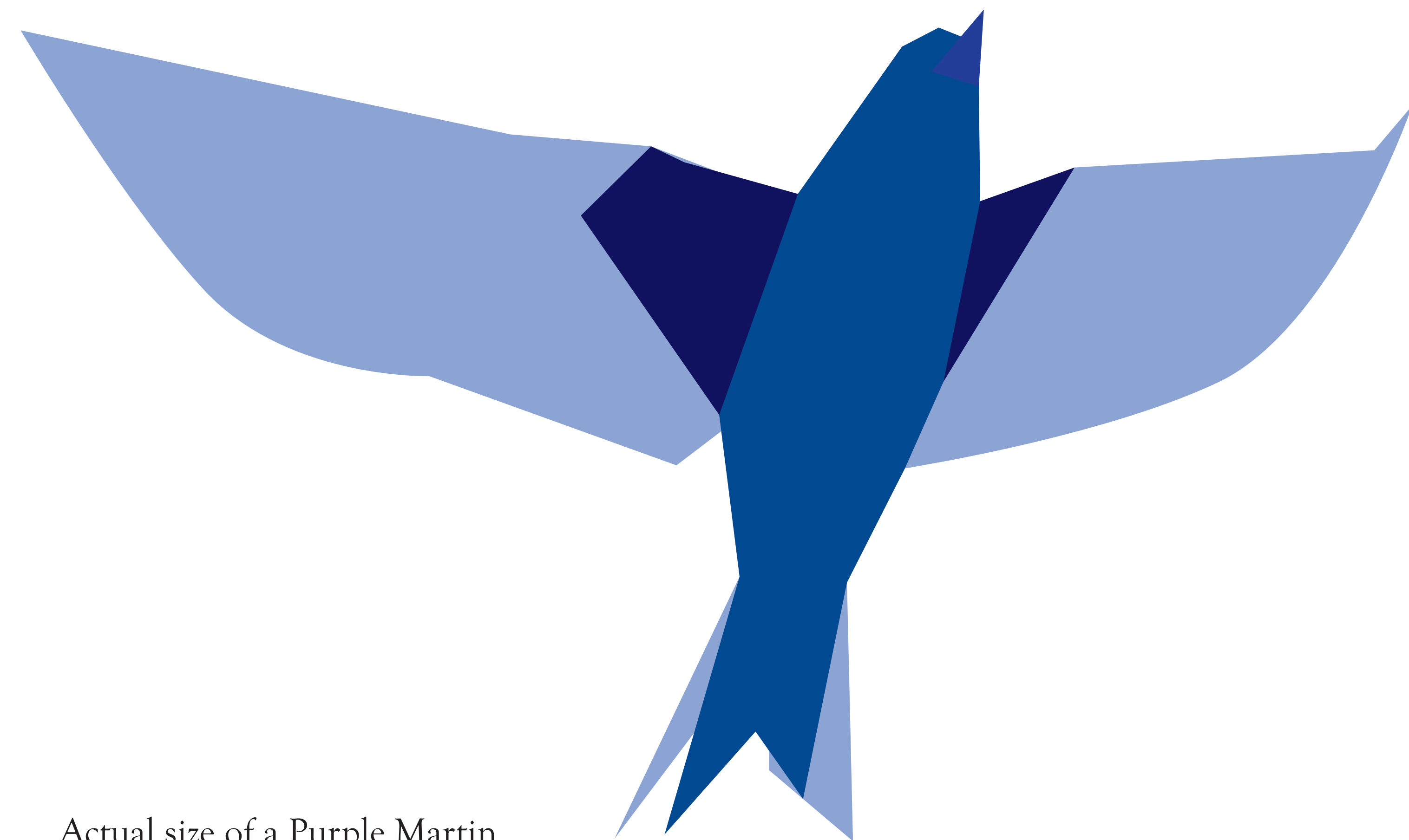


## Amazing Purple Martins (*Progne subis*)

Purple Martins are the largest swallow in North America.

They measure up to 8 inches from beak to tail, have a wingspan up to 16 inches, and weigh up to 2 ounces.

- Males are dark, glossy, blue-purple.
- Females have duller upperparts and mostly gray underparts.
- Purple Martins eat and drink in flight. They capture insects on the wing and skim water surfaces to scoop up water with their lower bills.



Actual size of a Purple Martin

## Nesting Colonies

Purple Martins nest in colonies, much like humans live in neighborhoods.

For thousands of years, Purple Martins nested in natural cavities and dead trees. Today, most nest only in human-supplied housing. Purple Martins favor light-colored housing in the southern U.S, because it reflects heat and keeps nestlings cooler.



## Migration & Range

Purple Martins spend our winter in South America and spring and summer in North America.

Austin is located along one of three different flyways that Purple Martins use to travel to and from South America.

## Purple Martin Roosts

Once young birds are able to fly, Purple Martins move from the nesting colony to large, communal roosts. They sleep at these roosts during migration.

## Conservation

Migratory and wintering roosts are critically important to the survival of Purple Martins.

Urban/suburban tree roosts are sometimes seen as a nuisance to cities or owners of private property. To ensure the Purple Martins' survival, Travis Audubon promotes recognition and protection of these Martin roosts.

For more information visit [www.Travisaudubon.org](http://www.Travisaudubon.org) or The Purple Martin Conservation Association at: [www.purplemartin.org](http://www.purplemartin.org)

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