

House martin

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the Sussex would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change enabling us to create a living landscape

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Nest-site necessities

The nest shell is built up with pellets of sloppy mud on the outer wall of the house – usually under the eaves – and hardens quickly.

The crucial factor is that the mud sticks to the wall. If you want to help the Martins in this process you can provide a nail in the wall for the

first gobs of mud about 15cm (6in) below the eaves. Artificial nest-boxes can be bought,



House martin nest / Darin Smith

which act as a very potent attractant to the birds, even if they build their own.

Building materials

A supply of really sticky mud within 150 or 200 metres is absolutely crucial. In times of drought, mud can be in precious supply, delaying second broods if a new nest is needed. To help nesting you can create a small pile of wet mud and they may also appreciate some feathers for the lining.

Chick care

Chicks can only be catered for by the parents, which provide them with flying insects – delivered up to once every five minutes.

Special dietary requirements

Only natural food is taken but don't forget you can create habitats within your garden to attract the natural food sources. A pond in the garden will provide a good foraging area.



House martin / Jeremy Early—
www.natureconservationimaging.com

Night shelter

The nests are used, unoccupied ones providing an important resource for migrants. Outside breeding season, they may roost in the foliage of trees, but probably most often on the wing, like swifts.

When it's all happening

Breeding from early May, the last young fledging as late as October.



House martins / Paul Martin

Breeding Starts: April- May

Number of Clutches: 2-3

Number of Eggs: 2-6

Incubation Days: 13-19

Fledge Days: 19-25

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