

House Martin  
Conservation  
UK & Ireland



# House martins need you



In December 2021, house martins were moved to the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) in the UK following a 72% decline in the last 50 years leading to the risk of extinction.

From March–May house martins will begin to arrive in the UK & Ireland after their long journey back from Africa, to spend the summer here raising their chicks. You may have noticed their mud nests on your home from previous years.

## How you can help

You can attract house martins to nest on your house by putting up **artificial nest cups** to give them a permanent home year after year. Encourage others to do this too by helping your community understand the problems that house martins face.

If you have to remove nests to do renovation work please make sure it is outside of the nesting season (it is illegal to remove or disturb an active nest of any bird in the UK).

Replacing the removed nests with artificial ones will encourage returning birds to stay and continue to breed. If you don't have any suitable eaves you could fix a weatherproof wooden board at least 200mm deep to create an overhang for nests.

© Paul Stevens



House martins leave droppings which can be an issue for some households but they are easily removed with a hosepipe or brush. Flower pots can be placed on the ground beneath the nests or a droppings board can be placed at least 2 metres below the nest cups.

Ponds attract lots of insects for house martins to feed on and a muddy edge can provide nest building material too.

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Gable ends & eaves make the perfect site for house martin nest cups!

## Contact us

✉ Get in touch: [contact@housemartinconservation.com](mailto:contact@housemartinconservation.com)

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## Decline



Adverse weather can impact migration and the availability of mud for nesting.



Insect decline.



Habitat degradation.



Suitable nest sites are in decline due to new buildings using unsuitable materials.

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## Emergency

If you have a house martin emergency please contact us or your local wildlife rescue centre.



House Martin Conservation UK & Ireland is a registered charity: United Kingdom no. 1193623