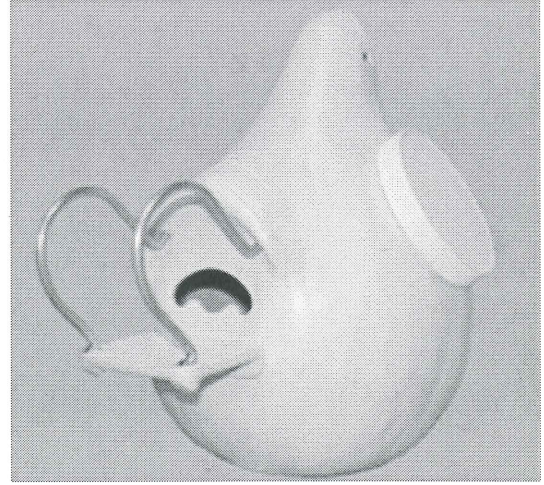


Excluder Gourd Owl Guards

Thank you for purchasing this product from PMCA. We hope this product will give you many seasons of use. We're glad to have you as a partner in martin conservation.

Owls are nighttime predators of both house-nesting and gourd-nesting Purple Martins. When raiding gourds, owls will hover in front of the gourd, grab the entrance hole with one foot, reach in with the other, and attempt to extract martins or their young. Sometimes they beat their wings against the gourd and capture the martins as they attempt to escape. The PMCA encourages all landlords with active colony sites to equip their houses and gourd racks with owl guards. These guards also offer protection from hawks, crows, and gulls.

The guards can be installed at active colony sites, and at sites that have not yet attracted nesting martins. If installing guards for the first time at an active site after martins have returned, install the guards early on a fair-weather day. The martins' nesting drive will soon overcome their suspicion of the guards and they will reenter their cavities. Martins should adapt very quickly to flying between the guards. It's a good idea to practice the installation of the guards beforehand so that you can attach them fairly quickly once the time arrives. At inactive sites, and active sites where martins have not yet returned, install the guards as soon as you set the housing up in the spring. After the first season, the guards can be left on permanently since the martins will have become accustomed to them.



These Excluder Gourd Owl Guards are designed to work only with the Excluder Gourds with attached porches.

Mounting Instructions:

1. Install the Snyder porches according to instructions that came with the gourd. The manufacturer's recommended porch mounting height is best for guard mounting. The porches can be mounted higher or lower but the owl guards will need to be bent to achieve a tight fit.
2. Insert the end of the guard with the hole into the hole in the porch. Then slip the other end into the hole in the gourd above. The fit should be snug; if not, remove and carefully bend the guard until a tight fit is accomplished.
3. Insert supplied screw into the hole at the front of the guard and tighten. Moderate pressure will be needed at first until the screw has started, then the screw will go in easily. Be careful not to over-tighten as the hole can be stripped out and a larger screw will be needed. The screw should be tightened just enough to make the guard strong and stable, but not so tight that the plastic gets stripped. Proper tension is achieved when you can carry the gourd by the guards without them bending out of position. However, we do not recommend carrying them in this manner, as they could begin to loosen.

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