

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Songbird Magnet



**Attract beautiful songbirds
to your feeder**



Bird-X, Inc. has been in the business of birds since 1964. We have utilized the latest in patented technology and materials to develop **Songbird Magnet.**

Songbird Magnet was developed in consultation with biologists and ornithologists for maximum realism. Naturally recorded digital output represents multiple individuals, with each song set to play at naturally occurring sound levels and intervals.

The product is both a purple martin caller and a songbird caller.

It's a compact, easy to use, pre-programmed, dual function electronic unit.

Purple Martins:

The unit entices useful and widely-loved Purple Martins. These desirable, insect-eating birds nest together and will return to the same house year after year.

The Magnet mimics the dawn-song heard from every purple martin colony, inviting new arrivals and passing martins to make their home in *your* purple martin house.

Favorite Songbirds:

Invites beautiful and melodious Eastern Bluebirds, Baltimore Orioles, House Wrens, House Finches, American Goldfinches and Indigo Buntings.

The Magnet reproduces the charming songs of these choosy species, assuring them that others of their kind are thriving. The familiar calls encourage them

to visit your feeding-station and/or nestboxes and become delightful regular visitors to your yard.

INSTALLATION:

Use the keyhole slots on the back to mount the Songbird Magnet to any building, wall, fence, post or wooden structure using nails or screws.

CONTROLS:

Purple Martin/Songbird

Choose one or the other according to your preference.

Volume

Select a volume realistic to your ear,

keeping it loud enough for birds in the area to hear.

Playing Time

Maximum playing time is 4 hours – a natural interval from dawn into day. If longer play is desired, simply re-start to repeat the full cycle.

Off/Photocell/Constant On

Choose **Photocell** if you want Purple Martin chatter to play up to four hours beginning at dawn, or Song Birds to sing intermittently starting at dawn.

Choose **Constant On** to override the photocell light sensor with a timer* for either call series (or to choose the beginning and end of the sound yourself) – up to the maximum 4 hours of play.

In either case, once activated, the sounds will play for up to four hours or until shut off occurs, either manually or because light is no longer reaching the photocell.

*timer not included

ATTRACTING SONGBIRDS TO YOUR FEEDING STATION

Different birds will be attracted by different types of food. For the greatest variety of beautiful wild bird species at your feeding station, be sure to supply food of varying kinds. High quality seed including sunflower, millet and safflower will draw many bird species. Peanuts are loved by woodpeckers, nuthatches, cardinals and

others. More specialized offerings include Niger thistle seed to attract finches, especially goldfinches – and suet, a favorite of woodpeckers and nuthatches. Insect-eating species like bluebirds are attracted and nourished by feeding mealworms, waxworms or caterpillars. Some species, such as

orioles and hummingbirds, visit fruit or specialty nectar feeders. Many areas experience changing bird populations as the seasons come and go. Look out for unusual and beautiful migrants in spring and fall!

Consult your local specialty bird store or catalog for more information on bird species and the foods they prefer.

Your efforts will be well repaid by a greater variety of bird visitors and more exciting viewing!

Birds prefer to visit yards which offer them all the essentials for survival: food, water and cover. Trees,

bushes, shrubs or hedges close to your feeding station will entice shy birds closer, providing a 'staging area' and helping them to feel safe. Brushy areas and nestboxes *situated away from the feeding station* will encourage nesting.

Using commercially available squirrel baffles also saves more seed for your bird visitors.

For human and bird health, keep your feeding stations clean and replace water regularly.

NOTE: Eastern bluebirds nest most successfully when competing invasive House Sparrows are discouraged.

House finch • Baltimore oriole • American goldfinch



House wren • Indigo bunting • Eastern bluebird

Note: These are common and widely-distributed species. Obviously individual species ranges vary throughout the United States. The Magnet will entice these species most effectively, but also lets other local songbirds know that your garden is a place which birds find attractive.

Some species tend to be territorial, but ornithologists have found that even birds who chase off rivals will quickly acclimate to hearing the same neighbor, specially if that neighbor is invisible and presents no threat.

Follow specific feeding and bird attracting tips for greatest success.

CARING FOR YOUR PURPLE MARTIN COLONY

Purple Martins have lived alongside humans for centuries. Special 'martin houses' and hanging gourds have long been used to attract them. It is important to note that this beloved bird benefits from continued care once a colony has taken up residence. Information is available on the Internet and in specialist bird stores – we provide the most important pointers below, but an enthusiastic 'landlord' can find out much more from web sites such as www.purplemartins.com or local purple martin fan clubs.

Martins like to live close to people, but not too close. Ideally your martin house should be placed in an open site 30 to 100 feet from human houses, and if possible at least 40 feet from tall trees (which can conceal hawk and owl predators). The houses should be mounted 10-20 feet above the ground. It is best if the pole allows you to raise and lower the house easily, so you can check on their progress and help the martins in their struggle against competitors such as the destructive House Sparrow. You should also be able to take the house down in the winter for a thorough cleaning.

New houses attract yearling martins, not already settled, who arrive a little later than established residents. Martins will return every year to the same colony once they have nested there. The dawn-song sounding from your 'Magnet' mimics a thriving colony, to let passing birds know that your yard offers what they are looking for. To care for the martins you have enticed, this invitation should be followed-up by providing for their needs.

Purple Martin landlords can help their martin tenants to nest successfully by protecting them from snakes, mammal predators and birds of prey. Wire mesh or cone baffles act as predator guards from climbing attackers such as black rat snakes. No wires should lead from the martin house or its pole to any other structure or tree, as these also provide too-easy access for all types of predators. An open situation far from tall trees and shrubbery is safest.

Non-native birds such as the house sparrow or European starling are fierce martin nesting competitors. Martins will not continue nesting efforts if other, more aggressive species take over. Successful martin landlords keep watch for unwanted house sparrows and starlings at their Martin colony, check their houses regularly (the martins don't mind), and tear out any foreign nests. Native birds such as the Eastern bluebird should not have existing nests disturbed, but if they show interest they can be tempted away from the Martin house by placing single nestboxes in the garden and temporarily plugging the martin holes till they have started nesting elsewhere.

Once you have successfully invited your Purple Martin colony to take up residence, paying attention to these needs will help establish them permanently, keep them safe, and bring you years of pleasure.

Keep messy, unwanted pest birds and animals from other areas of your property, like rooftops, trees, gardens, air conditioners, windowsills and more – look at our full line of bird and animal products:

- **SPIKES Needle Strips:** Plastic or stainless steel strips of spikes make it impossible for squirrels to climb, or for birds to roost. A permanent exclusion for windowsills, roofs, air conditioners and more.
- **Trasonic PRO sonic/ultrasonic repeller** deters rodents, bats and small critters from invading your porch, crawlspace, garage or attic. Also chases crawling insects.
- **YardGard repeller** keep deer, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels and more from your property.
- **BirdNet** seals access points where you don't want birds or other creatures to go.



ANOTHER PRODUCT FOR BIRDING

SPARROW FREE Magic Halo to keep messy, greedy, invasive house sparrows away from your feeder **WITHOUT** discouraging other birds.

It is a university-developed, patented wire hoop device with hanging monofilaments that attaches to the top of a feeder. Field studies have shown that certain bird species, particularly house sparrows, will not fly under these wires. These studies show 98% effectiveness – the detailed reports are available on request.

The Magic Halo was developed after decades of research into risk aversion and foraging habits of birds by Dr. R.J. Johnson and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Dr. Johnson is a professor of Wildlife Biology and Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Institute of Agricultural and Natural Resources at UNL.



SPECIFICATIONS

Contents: Songbird Magnet
 UL approved plug Adapter with 50-ft cord
 Instructions

Dimensions: 6.5" x 5.5" x 3.5" (unit only)
Weight: 1 pound (shipping weight 2 pounds)
Material: Dark green color, heavy-duty plastic

The SongBird Magnet housing is designed to be weatherproof except in extreme conditions. It may safely be mounted out of doors, at a distance from the ground or dwelling.

Be sure to keep the adapter and the electrical source (outlet and plug) protected from moisture.



Bird X-Perts since 1964

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