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From today's featured article



The **pale crag martin** (*Ptyonoprogne obsoleta*) is a [bird](#) in the [swallow](#) family that is resident in northern Africa and in southwestern Asia. It breeds in mountains, other rocky areas and towns. It is 12–13 cm (4.5–5 in) long, with mainly brown [plumage](#), and paler below, with white "windows" on the tail that show as it hunts along cliffs for flying insects. It builds a deep bowl or quarter-sphere nest on a flat surface, vertical rock face or wall, made with mud and lined with grass or feathers. It is normally a solitary breeder, but small groups may sometimes nest close together. The two or three eggs of a typical [clutch](#) are white with brown and grey blotches, and are incubated by both adults for 16–19 days prior to hatching. Both parents then feed the chicks. [Fledging](#) takes another 22–24 days. With a large range and apparently increasing population, this species faces no major threats. It is assessed as a [least-concern species](#) on the [IUCN Red List](#). (*[This article](#) is part of a [featured topic](#): [Crag martins](#).*)

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Did you know ...

- ... that **Windham William Sadler** (*pictured*) made the first crossing of the [Irish Sea](#) by balloon in 1817, five years after [his father](#) had failed to achieve the same feat?
- ... that the "awkward, cramped galleries" at **2 Columbus Circle** later housed New York City government offices?
- ... that the perpetrator of the **2015 Heze bombing** was described as normal just days before the attack?
- ... that after civil rights activist [Andrew Goodman](#) was murdered, **Mary Doyle Curran** found and published a poem that Goodman had written for her class?
- ... that at 6 by 22 metres (20 by 72 feet), ***Zeitlaich*** is [Jonas Burgert](#)'s largest oil painting?
- ... that after journalist [Adele Ferguson](#)'s criticism of the U.S. Navy's [sex discrimination](#) attracted nationwide attention, she was offered a personal tour of [a nuclear submarine](#)?
- ... that [a travelling museum exhibition in Japan](#) displays "life-size" renditions of [Pokémon](#) skeletons alongside the fossils of actual prehistoric animals?
- ... that [Cheekface](#) announced their third album via postcards sent to fans?



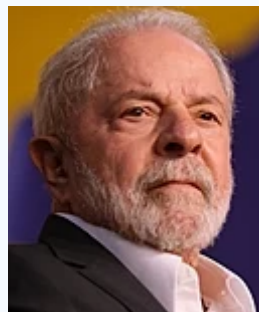
Drawing of Sadler in a balloon

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- In **the Brazilian general election**, two-term former president **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** (*pictured*) defeats incumbent **Jair Bolsonaro**.
- In India, **a footbridge collapse** in **Morbi**, **Gujarat**, results in the deaths of 135 people.
- In baseball, the **Orix Buffaloes** defeat the **Tokyo Yakult Swallows** to win **the Japan Series**.
- More than 100 people are killed and 300 others are injured by **two car bombs** in **Mogadishu**, **Somalia**.



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Ongoing: [Mahsa Amini protests](#) · [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

Recent deaths: [Thomas Cahill](#) · [Gerald Stern](#) · [Vince Dooley](#) · [Hannah Pick-Goslar](#) · [Paul Morantz](#) · [Farquhar Wilkinson](#)

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On this day

October 31: Halloween

- **475** – **Romulus Augustulus** took the throne as the last effective ruling emperor of the **Western Roman Empire**.
- **1913** – Public-transportation workers in **Indianapolis** **went on strike** (*pictured*), shutting down mass transit in the city.
- **1917** – **World War I**: **Allied** forces defeated Turkish troops in **Beersheba** in Southern **Palestine** at the **Battle of Beersheba**, with the battle involving one of the last successful **cavalry charges**.
- **1973** – Three **Provisional Irish Republican Army** members **escaped** from **Mountjoy Prison** in Dublin aboard a hijacked helicopter that landed in the prison's exercise yard.
- **2005** – The discovery of the **Plutonian moons** **Nix** and **Hydra**, based on photographs taken by the **Hubble Space Telescope** nearly five months prior, was announced.



Strikers surrounding a streetcar in Indianapolis

Natalie Clifford Barney (b. 1876) · **Michael Collins** (b. 1930) · **Bill Kibby** (d. 1942)

More anniversaries: [October 30](#) · **October 31** · [November 1](#)

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From today's featured list

In **Major League Baseball** (MLB), the **50 home run club** is the group of **batters** who have hit 50 or more **home runs** in a single season. **Babe Ruth** (*pictured*) was the first to achieve this, doing so in 1920. By reaching the milestone, he also became the first player to hit 30 and then 40 home runs in a single-season, breaking his own record of 29 from the 1919 season. Ruth subsequently became the first player to reach the 50 home run club on four occasions, repeating the achievement in 1921, 1927 and 1928. He remained the only player to accomplish this until **Mark McGwire** and **Sammy Sosa** matched his feat in 1999 and 2001, respectively, thus becoming the only players to achieve four consecutive 50 home run seasons. **Barry Bonds** hit the most home runs to join the club, collecting 73 in 2001. The most recent player to reach the milestone is **Aaron Judge**, achieving the feat for the second time during the 2022 season. In total, 30 players have reached the 50 home run club in MLB history. ([Full list...](#))



Babe Ruth

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Today's featured picture



Tomb of the architect **Giovanni Battista Gisleni** (1600–1672) in the church of **Santa Maria del Popolo**, Rome. The figure of a skeleton was sculpted by the architect before his death. The carved text reads *Neque hic vivus* (not visible in this image) and *Neque illic mortuus* (Latin: "Neither living here — nor dead there"). Text in the two **tondi** (circles) reads *In nidulo meo moriar* ("In my nest I die" i.e. in Rome) and *Ut phoenix multiplicabo dies* ("As a **phoenix** I multiply my days").

credit: [Joaquim Alves Gaspar](#)

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- **Community portal** – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements.
- **Village pump** – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues.
- **Site news** – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement.
- **Teahouse** – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Reference desk** – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics.
- **Content portals** – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia.

Wikipedia's sister projects

Wikipedia is written by volunteer editors and hosted by the [Wikimedia Foundation](#), a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other volunteer [projects](#):



Commons

Free media repository



Meta-Wiki

Wikimedia project coordination



Wikidata

Free knowledge base



Wikiquote

Collection of quotations



Wikispecies

Directory of species



Wikivoyage

Free travel guide



MediaWiki

Wiki software development



Wikibooks

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