



### Purple Martin 3

Remembering being down in Holiday Beach  
Watching the martins in their home.

The martins fly into their summer home  
Set up for them at the property's edge  
Only to return to the mosquito fields  
Their density ensures these birds are well fed.

A soft loving call escapes from the male  
And is returned with sweetness by its mate  
And the other couples living nearby  
Also act like they are on a date.

While martins are predators of the insect world  
Their home life is one of love and harmony  
And they manage to co-exist without strife  
Perhaps it's because they don't worry about money.

The world of birds has much to share  
With those of us who ask and care  
It is possible to be both hard and soft  
A characteristic I consider to be rare.

High density housing seems not a problem  
To the martin families packed in the condo  
They share their space with amazing grace

Yet they are always on the go.

Tolerance is a trait that we all need  
As we face an issue like this pesky virus  
We need to be willing to offer help  
And spread a layer of good will amongst us.

A pandemic it seems pushes all of our buttons  
The folks on television are all stressed out  
The lights on our system are all blinking red  
And as I watch I just want to shout.

So I think of the martins to find some peace  
And listen to hear the soft gentle tweet  
And I conjure that sound to end the day  
And help me find my way to sleep.

## The Purple Martin

At Rice University  
At James Turrell's Skyspace  
At mid-summer's dusk.

The light is soft and focused  
Through the hole in the square  
That is mounted above my head,  
Causing me to be in the moment,  
To take in the play of color and clouds,  
To be aware of whom and what  
And where I am.

Through Turrell's lens I see  
The blackish forms flitting above me,  
The body stocky, the wings pointed,  
Purple martins collecting their daily ration  
Of mosquitos and other flying things  
That also share our space.

Thank you, James Turrell, for helping me to  
Understand the meaning of "in the moment",  
Helping me to appreciate that which is around me,  
That which co-exists with me,  
The purple martins of my moment.