into the base of their plumage. As the sun gets higher they make short flights here and there, amidst a chorus of happy bubbling song. By the time the office man is betaking himself to his daily grind, the Martins bethink themselves of their serious duties of life, and hie away for the day, over marsh-land and meadow, field and stream, housetops or country, until evening again calls them together. Such are some of the attractions of Purple Martins and the tale is not nearly exhausted.

Purple Martins are the only birds we have that will occupy a nesting box in colony. Other birds that can be induced to come to artificial nest receptacles are solitary in their breeding habits and impatient of close neighbours even when of their own species. Hence it is useless to build bird houses of more than one compartment for other species than Martins. The rooms should be about six inches square and about the same height. A little more or less either way will not matter, but these sizes should be approximated. The rooms should be entirely separate from each other and not intercommunicating. They should be light, be draught and weather-tight and have only a single entrance each, which may be either round or square, one and three-quarters of an inch and about one or one and a half inches up from the floor. This last is important. A perch or shelf, outside, on the level with the entrance, is objectionable as the young come out on it before they can fly, and the natural crowding for position is certain to precipitate some to the ground. Such occurrences cause great disturbance and anxiety to the whole colony, but I do not think that the unfortunate victim of the accident is ever fed or raised, even if the commotion does not attract the watchful cat. A perch somewhat below the door, wide enough to comfortably hold one or more grown birds, is desirable, as Martins love to sit about, and the more perches and shelves there are for this purpose, the better they seem to like it and the more attractive the colony is both from their viewpoint and ours. The doors should be sheltered as much as possible by over-hanging eaves and porches. Driving rain beating into the nests of young birds is a deadly enemy and, probably on this account, the best sheltered entrances are most in demand. In the house in the frontispiece the two upper floors are always most in demand. Consequently, since the picture was taken, additional porch shelters have been placed over the lower entrances and it is expected that these will make them more popular. The whole house should be covered with a good, tight, weather-proof roof. Dampness means cold and that is death to young birds. It is also most advisable to arrange the house to open so that after the birds have left for the winter the rooms can be thoroughly cleaned out. During the infancy of the young, a certain amount of house cleaning is attended to, but later the birds have no time for such drudgery, and the debris from a couple of season's occupancy will leave little room within. The house should be erected in the open, away from trees, or at least as high as the top of closely adjoining buildings. Ordinarily it should be from fourteen to twenty feet from the ground, depending on surroundings, high enough to allow free flight and manœuvering room about it.

The materials of which the Martin or any other bird house can be made may be varied to suit taste or opportunity. Lightness, however, is desirable, especially in a large house or in one that has to be supported on a long unbraced pole, in the open, in wind and storm. Light pine, ⅜ or ½ inch thick is usually sufficient. For paint, it should preferably be dressed, but rough stuff takes stain better and is more in general keeping. The house in the frontispiece was built of beaver-board—a heavy card-board—on a wooden frame and the roof and exposed surfaces covered with cotton well painted down. It has been up two seasons now and shows no signs of deterioration that a brush-full of paint will not remedy. Probably a better material is the light wood of which orange crates are made. It would probably be well to give the house a good coat of black paint inside to prevent the light from glowing through it. The support is a built-up box pole hollow in the centre and set on a concrete base, as shown in the details accompanying. The house itself slides up and down the pole on counter weighted cords running over common sash pulleys in the top of the pole, with a heavy window weight inside. A bag of sand would do as well for the latter. This allows the house to be easily lowered to remove trapped sparrows or to be cleaned. Access is gained to the weight box inside through a removable section near the base.

These are about all the rules necessary for the erection of a successful Martin house. It may have as many rooms as desired, the more the merrier, and the larger the colony may grow, but there should at least be several; for Martins are sociable and love the company of their kind. Bearing in mind these requirements and the principles of good taste previously mentioned, there are no reasons why a Martin house that will be a constant source of pleasure to the neighbourhood may not be built by almost anyone. After such a house is once erected, about all that can be done is to await its occupation and meanwhile keep the sparrows out. They will invariably occupy it if not prevented. One good way to exclude them is to arrange entrances that can be easily closed from below. Should sparrows