

By: Harper-Brown

H.C.R. No. 54

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The purple martin is one of this country's
2 best-loved songbirds, and the city of Grand Prairie has become a
3 leading center for purple martin conservation in the Lone Star
4 State; and

5 WHEREAS, Members of the swallow family, purple martins are
6 admired for their iridescent blue-black coloring, their pleasant
7 song, and their graceful aerial acrobatics; they feed on insects,
8 catching all of their food in flight, and drink by skimming the
9 surface of a pond and scooping up water with their lower bills; and

10 WHEREAS, Purple martins fly north in the spring to breed in
11 Mexico, the United States, and Canada; after their young are
12 hatched and able to fly, a process that takes approximately 70 days,
13 the birds migrate south again to their winter range in the lowlands
14 east of the Andes Mountains; and

15 WHEREAS, In the western part of North America, purple martins
16 still nest in natural cavities in trees and cliff faces, but east of
17 the Rocky Mountains, for more than a century now, the bird has
18 nested almost exclusively in artificial housing supplied by humans;
19 today, it is estimated that more than a million "landlords" put up
20 housing for purple martins, who typically return to their last
21 successful homesite; and

22 WHEREAS, Since the founding of the Purple Martin Landlords of
23 North Texas in 1999, the group's members have supported research
24 concerning these birds and have worked to educate area citizens

1 about their needs; based in Grand Prairie, the club has further
2 promoted the construction of purple martin housing in various
3 public locations around the city, including at schools, libraries,
4 the municipal golf course, the Kirby Creek Natural Science
5 Education Center, and Loyd Park on Joe Pool Lake; and

6 WHEREAS, Each year, the mayor and city council of Grand
7 Prairie proclaim Purple Martin Day to raise public awareness and
8 encourage support for the perpetuation of the species; and

9 WHEREAS, Grand Prairie residents have demonstrated a special
10 affinity for purple martins and devoted considerable time and
11 resources to help them flourish; thanks to the keen interest and
12 energetic efforts of these citizens, springtime in the city now
13 heralds the return of large numbers of this shimmering bird, whose
14 distinctive song and aerial displays have become a source of
15 immense delight to countless observers; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby designate Grand Prairie as the official Purple Martin
18 Conservation Capital of Texas.