

Barn Swallow



Latin name: *Hirundo rustica*
French name: Hirondelle rustique
Spanish name: Golondrina Común

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Worldwide Assessment (Global IUCN): Least Concern
In Canada (COSEWIC): Threatened
Population trend: Large Decrease (-3.7 % /year)

SPRING MIGRATION

Barn Swallows are neotropical migrants, travelling long distances to breeding areas in North America. They migrate during the day, moving north as spring's warmer weather makes flying insects, like blackflies, midges and mosquitoes, available along the journey.

DESCRIPTION

Barn Swallows are a widespread and familiar species in the Swallow family. They are aerial insectivores, and have fast, agile flight to feed on flying insects.



BREEDING

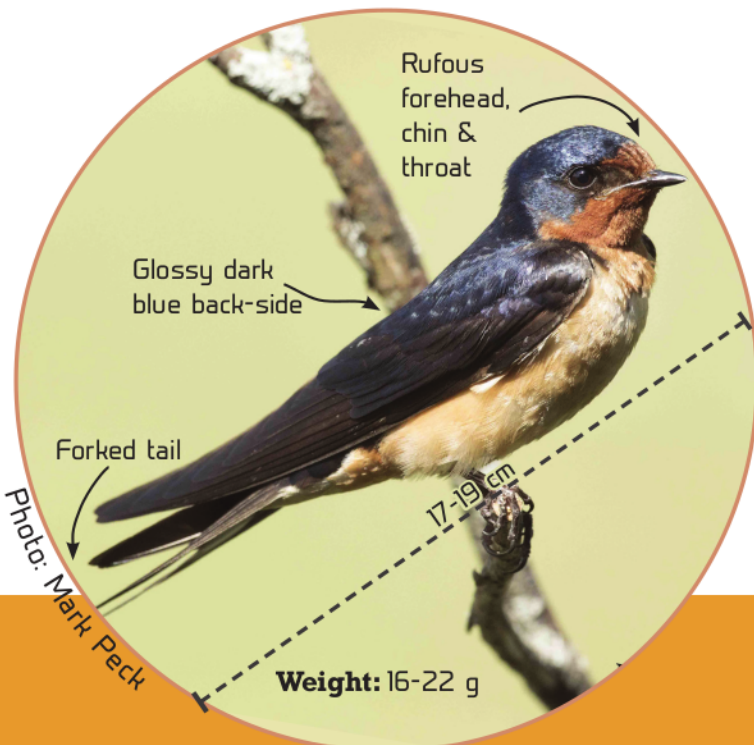
Barn Swallows settle into breeding areas in April and May, seeking open areas like grasslands, farms and marshes. Males set up territories near structures, often associated with human dwellings, like barns and outbuildings. Cup-shaped nests are made of mud pellets and lined with feathers for 3-7 white eggs. Females incubate for 2 weeks, and both parents feed the young for another 3 weeks.

FALL MIGRATION

Adult Barn Swallows leave the breeding area shortly after their young fledge the nest. By August, large flocks of swallows gather on power lines, in fields and wetlands, foraging and preparing for the journey back to their wintering grounds.

WINTER

Barn Swallows spend the non-breeding season in Central and South America, where the tropical climate supports an abundant supply of food.



CLASSIFICATION

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes (Perching birds)
Family: Hirundinidae (Swallows)
Genus: *Hirundo*
Species: *rustica*

