

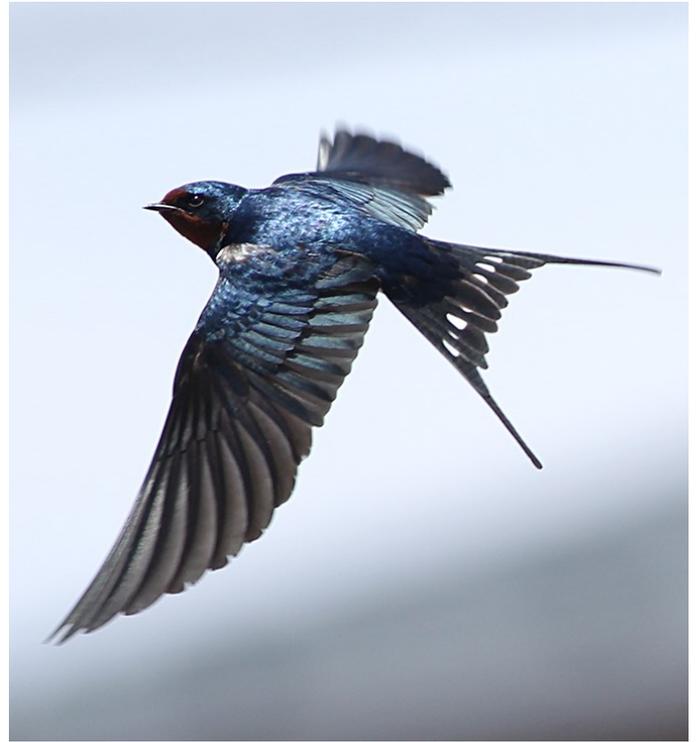
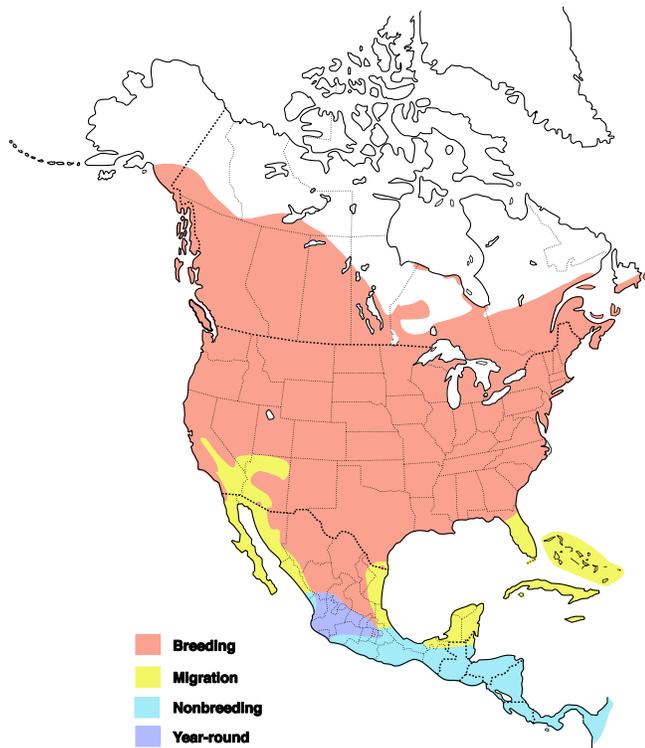


Species at Risk Profile Series: Barn Swallow



- Barn Swallows are considered threatened in Canada.
- They are found on every continent except Antarctica – the most widespread swallow.
- Swallows tend to prefer open areas, including farmyards.
- Nests are built by both sexes carrying mouthfuls of mud with as many as 40 trips per hour.
- A nest takes 6-15 days to build, but less if an old nest is reused and repaired.
- Barn Swallows are known for nesting on manmade structures and this behaviour began with indigenous structures, prior to European settlement.
- Pairs that have nested successfully may remain together for several years, and often return to the same nesting sites.
- Most of a Barn Swallow's diet is comprised of flies.
- Unmated males will sometimes kill young nestlings in an attempt to incite divorce in the parents, and then mate with the now-single female
- During the egg-laying period, males mated to a female will give false alarm calls to scare off other males and prevent extra-pair copulations (cheating).





Conservation

- Swallows, along with other birds that eat insects in the air, are declining faster than any other group of birds in Canada - and no one knows why.
- In the last 40 years, Barn Swallows have declined by 76% in Canada.
- Threats include loss of habitat, declines in insect prey, climate change, competition with invasive species for nest sites, nest parasites, and human persecution.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Barn Swallows [here](#).
- Leave swallow nests up year-round, and minimize disturbance during nesting.

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