

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

This gregarious member of the family Hirundinidae (swallows and martins), is often associated with noisy colonial nesting sites in barns and under the eaves of buildings. A neotropical migrant, over-wintering in Central America and Mexico, Barn Swallow in BC migrate via Washington State and the Pacific Flyway.



Adults Rod Gilbert



Fledglings Matt MacGillivray



Artificial nest platform American
Artifacts



Nestlings in typical mud nest Walter Seigmund Wikipedia



Adult Rosemary Taylor

Characteristics

Dorsal plumage on adults is a metallic blue-black with a pale beige/russet breast, chin and bib. The long, deeply-forked tail feathers are a key feature to identify this species from other swallows. Males and females are similar in appearance, though males are more vibrantly colored and have longer outermost tail feathers (retrices), with white spots (lacking in females). Males with the longest outermost tail feathers tend to be more successful at securing mates and have higher survival rates. The only member of the genus *Hirundo* in BC, Canadian Breeding Bird Survey data suggests Barn Swallow have experienced a 2.9% annual decline over the past 30 years, a decline that has steepened in the last decade to 7.6% annually. 321

Status

Global Status:	G5
Provincial Status:	S3S4B
BC List Status:	Blue (Considered to be of Special Concern)

Resources

[Living With Wildlife Barn Swallows and Cliff Swallows. Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

For further information see

[The British Columbia Swallow Conservation Project](#)

[Swifts and Swallows Bird Studies Canada](#)

Bird Studies Canada and our project partners offer resources to help landowners manage and enhance habitat for swallows and swifts on their properties.

[Barn Swallows in Decline in North America \(video\)](#)

[BirdLife International Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*](#)

[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in

BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

Source URL: <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/barn-swallow>

Links

[1] <http://bcswallowconservationproject.wordpress.com/>

[2] <http://birdscanada.org/volunteer/ai/index.jsp?targetpg=ailearn>

[3] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDvQgnbV1rg>

[4] <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=7116>

[5] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[6] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[7] http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html

[8] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>