

BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF A BARN SWALLOW

Range and Habitat:

This swallow breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland and south through all of United States except southern Texas, Gulf Coast, and peninsular Florida. It winters in the tropics and also in Eurasia. Preferred habitats include agricultural land, suburban areas, marshes, and lake shores.

Breeding and Nesting:

Four to six brown-spotted white eggs are laid in a solid cup of mud reinforced with grass, lined with feathers and soft plant material, and placed on a rafter in a building or on a sheltered ledge. Incubation ranges from 13 to 17 days and is carried out by both sexes.

Foraging and Feeding:

Primary diet includes insects such as grasshoppers, crickets, dragonflies, beetles, and moths. Barn swallows are quite opportunistic, and are often found following tractors engaged in plowing or mowing, so as to take advantage of the disturbed insects.

Vocalization:

Song is a constant liquid twittering and chattering.

Similar Species:

Similar to this bird is the Cliff Swallow which has blue black upperparts and a squared tail. Also similar is the Cave Swallow, which also has blue black upperparts, a brown rump, and a squared tail.



Breeding Locations:

Desert, semi, Grassland with scattered trees, Grasslands

Breeding Type:

Abundant, Widespread

Breeding Population:

Desert, semi, Grassland with scattered trees, Grasslands

Egg Color: White

Number of Eggs: 4 - 7

Incubation Days: 13 - 17

Egg Incubator: Both sexes

Nest Material:

Clay or mud, dried stems, grasses, and straw with thick lining of horsehair, down, and feathers.

Migration: Migratory