

## BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF A TREE SWALLOW

### Range and Habitat:

This bird breeds from Alaska east through northern Manitoba to Newfoundland and south to California, Colorado, Nebraska, and Maryland. It winters north to southern California, Gulf Coast, and Carolinas and occasionally farther. Tree swallows live in open areas near water, such as fields, marches, meadows, shorelines, beaver ponds, and wooded swamps with standing dead trees.

### Breeding and Nesting:

Four to six white eggs are laid in a feather-lined cup of grass placed in a hole in a tree or in a nest box. Incubation ranges from 13 to 16 days and is carried out by the female.

### Foraging and Feeding:

Tree Swallows prefer to feed sheltered from the wind, in open areas above water or on the ground. The Tree Swallow's favorite food are insects, but will also feed on spiders, grasshoppers, mayflies, and stoneflies. When weather conditions are bad, they will also feed on vegetation, including bulrushes, bayberries, and other seeds. They may travel long distances to forage.

### Vocalization:

The song is a cheerful series of liquid twitters.

### Similar Species:

The Tree Swallow is most similar to the Violet-green Swallow, which has white patches that extend further onto the sides of the rump, a white area that extends behind and over the eye and greener upperparts. Bank Swallow is also similar, but is smaller. Northern Rough-winged Swallow has a dusky throat and warmer brown upperparts than the Tree Swallow.



### Breeding Locations:

Forest edge, Grasslands, Marshes, freshwater, Swamps

### Breeding Type:

Abundant, Increasing

### Breeding Population:

Forest edge, Grasslands, Marshes, freshwater, Swamps

### Egg Color: White

### Number of Eggs: 4 - 6

### Incubation Days: 13 - 16

### Egg Incubator: Female

### Nest Material:

Dried grass and plant stems, Lined with down.

### Migration: Migratory