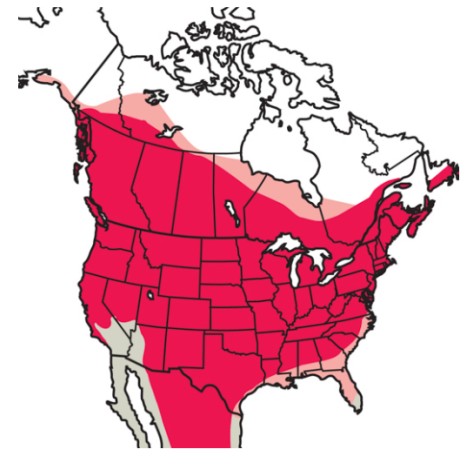




BARN SWALLOW



- All Seasons - Common
- All Seasons - Uncommon
- Breeding - Common
- Breeding - Uncommon
- Winter - Common
- Winter - Uncommon
- Migration - Common
- Migration - Uncommon

(Map Source: www.audubon.org)

FAMILY & NAME

Swallows
Hirundo rustica

HABITAT

Prefers open or semi-open land like farms and fields near bodies of water. This graceful aerial acrobat chooses to make its nest in manmade places such as barns, houses, or under bridges and wharves.

NESTING

Built by both partners in corners of buildings, under eaves, bridges etc. The nest is a cup of mud and dried grass lined with feathers. Usually 4-6 eggs, white spotted with brown.

FOOD

Eats wide variety of insects with some spiders and snails. Rarely berries and seeds.



FACTS

"Parents sometimes get help from other birds to feed their young. These "helpers at the nest" are usually older siblings from previous clutches, but unrelated juveniles may help as well."

"According to legend, the Barn Swallow got its forked tail because it stole fire from the gods to bring to people. An angry deity hurled a firebrand at the swallow, singeing away its middle tail feathers."

"The oldest known Barn Swallow in NA was at least 10 years old, when it was recaptured and rereleased during a banding operation in Maryland."

(Facts from: www.allaboutbirds.org)