

# Have you seen a...

## Barn Swallow

### What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** 6-7.5 inches

**Weight:** 17-20 grams

**Color:** Blue-black above, cinnamon below with a darker cinnamon throat, white spots on the tail

**General:** Tail forms a very large and distinct v-shape

**Usually Found:** Farms, fields, marshes, ponds



### Did You Know?

- The barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) is more abundant and widely distributed than any other swallow species in the world.
- The barn swallow once bred in caves, but is now more frequently found in barns, under bridges, and other man-made structures.
- Due to its dependence on man-made structures for nesting, this species has actually benefited greatly from human activity!
- Females are more likely to breed with males with dark red chests and longer, more symmetrical tails.

### What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- First appearance
- Evidence of nest building
- Incubation of eggs
- Feeding young
- Last sighting of bird in summer or autumn

### Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this bird is impacted by environmental changes.

### How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:  
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>  
or sent to [phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

### Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,  
[phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

**What is Phenology?** According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

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