

# Have you seen a...

## Tree Swallow

### What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** 5-6 inches

**Weight:** 16-25 grams

**Color:** Metallic blue above, white below

**General:** Small and slender body; small bill; long wings

**Usually Found:** Marshes, wooded swamps, and open fields



### Did You Know?

- The tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) nests in both nest boxes and holes in trees.
- Their nests contain grass and/or pine needles and are lined with feathers from other birds, most commonly waterfowl. The feathers provide insulation and prevent parasites.
- The tree swallow eats berries and insects.
- The tree swallow is a migratory bird that spends the winter farther north than any other American swallow.
- They can often be found eating bayberries along coastal dunes during the winter months.

### What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- First appearance of adults
- First eggs
- First hatched young
- First fledglings out of next box/cavity
- Last sighting in summer/autumn

### Want to Find Out More?

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

### 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)

**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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