



SWALLOW ROOST MONITORING 2018

naturecanada.ca

Delivered as part of an ongoing project in partnership with:



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

With financial support from:

Ontario Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

CONTACT INFORMATION - Please send completed forms to:

Ted Cheskey, Naturalist Director, Nature Canada
Suite 300, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5E7

Scanned copies can be sent to TCheskey@naturecanada.ca

INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill out this monitoring survey to the best of your ability. **We suggest recording data in a field notebook and transferring information to this form afterwards.** Please complete a separate 'Visit Details' page for repeat visits to the same roost location.

The ideal time to look for roosts is at dusk. Station yourself at a safe and strategic location with good visibility. Position yourself such that the sunset is on the far side of the roost. This way, the sky will silhouette the birds, making them easier to see (and count). Before planning your excursion, make sure you have permission to access the roost site. Speak with Nature Canada to learn about where roosts might be located in your area. **Any photos and/or videos are of great help!**

The information you contribute will help to identify important swallow roosting habitat and monitor the population status of these declining species in Canada. **Thank you for your assistance!**



Roosting Site: A place where hundreds or thousands of birds regularly gather to rest at night.

In Ontario, roosts begin to form in late July and last until mid-September. **They are often found in the wetland shorelines or marsh islets along the Great Lakes.** At dusk, birds circle over the area and settle in. At dawn, they can be seen flying out in massive groups.



Staging Area: A location where hundreds or thousands of swallows (and other birds) assemble to rest and feed.

Large numbers of birds can be seen perching on power lines or in tall trees **during the day or in the evening before they go to roost for the night.**



Foraging Habitat: Swallows can often be seen foraging for flying insects - often over agricultural areas, wetlands, or at the waters edge.

Purple Martins (and all other swallows) are part of a group of birds known as **aerial insectivores (birds that feed on insects while airborne)**. Populations of aerial insectivores are experiencing the most rapid decline of any group of bird in Canada.

Observer Information

Date: _____

Observer name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone number: _____

Full mailing address: _____

Site & Habitat Description

Coordinates of survey location:

Latitude: _____

Longitude: _____

Address:

Communicated with landowner? Yes No

Land ownership: Public Private Unknown

Landowner Contact Information (if provided)

Company: _____

Contact: _____

Position/Title: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing address: _____

Swallow habitat (see page 1):

Roost Staging area Foraging

Other (specify): _____

Detailed roost site description:

Check the boxes that apply to the dominant habitat(s) within a 200m radius surrounding the roost site.

Forested	<input type="checkbox"/> Young, successional
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mature
Open - Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Grassland
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hayfield
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture/grazing land
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cropland
Open - Natural/Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Bog
	<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fen
Human-made	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential
	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial
	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Description of how site was accessed:

How did you learn about this roost?

Describe your survey method/how you counted the birds in the roost:

Description of visible threats to swallows or their habitat (e.g., industrial work):

Other notes (e.g., further site description, survey method) - use additional pages if needed:

Visit #	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Start Time	End Time	Wind	Sky	Other Notes

Species Observations

Please count and record numbers for each swallow species listed. We have also listed other species known to roost regularly with swallows. If possible, please provide any additional details about species behaviour or roost composition (e.g. juveniles, adults) under the 'Notes' column.

Species Name	Total	Notes
Purple Martin		
Tree Swallow		
Bank Swallow		
Barn Swallow		
Cliff Swallow		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		
European Starling		
Red-winged Blackbird		
Common Grackle		
Unknown species		

Notes:

Beaufort No.	Wind Speed (km/hr)	Indicators of Wind Speed
0	< 1	Smoke rises vertically
1	1 - 5	Wind direction shown by smoke drift
2	6 - 11	Wind felt of face, leaves rustle
3	12 - 19	Leaves, small twigs in constant motion
4	20 - 28	Raises dust/loost paper, small branches move
5	29 - 38	Small trees with leaves begin to sway
6	39 - 49	Large branches in motion, 'whistling' in power lines

Code	Indicators of Sky Condition
0	Clear or sunny
1	Partly cloudy (scattered) or variable sky
2	Cloudy (broken) or overcast
3	Fog or smoke
4	Drizzle
5	Showers
6	Snow

Additional survey notes: