

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica*

Kingdom: Animals
Phylum: Chordates
Class: Birds
Order: Passerines
Family: Swallows

The barn swallow is a migratory bird. It spends the winter in the tropical regions of Africa and appears in Europe during the spring months. Four species of swallows (barn swallow, house martin, sand martin, and crag martin) build their nests in mountain river valleys, cliffs, human settlements, and stone buildings.



They can lay eggs 2–3 times a year. Usually, they incubate 2 to 6 eggs. The incubation period lasts 13–19 days. The chicks develop feathers within about 19 days. The bird with a reddish forehead and white underparts is the barn swallow. Because of this feature, it resembles the red-rumped swallow. Its upper body is dark blue, sometimes with brownish shades. They are small, slender, and short-bodied birds. They have very fast flight abilities and spend most of their lives in the air. Their tails are deeply forked. Their beaks are short and wide. Their wings are long and pointed, while the tail is split into two parts. Almost all swallow species have a similar external appearance. Swallows are also called the “harbingers of spring.” Both urban and rural swallows feed only on insects. They spend nearly their entire lives flying in the air. During the summer season, a swallow can catch from half a million to one million gnats, mosquitoes, and aphids.