



Getting to know Chilliwack's Species at Risk

Species at risk profile: Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*

What it looks like:

A swallow that is metallic blue-black on top and light brown underneath, with a distinctive long, deeply forked tail. [Click here for more identification details.](#)

Where it lives:

Found swooping over open habitats including fields and ponds. Builds nests in barns or other buildings, under bridges, or on cliffs.

What it eats:

Primarily feeds on a variety of insects while flying.

What are its main threats in the Fraser Valley?

Loss of nesting habitat through removal of structures and destruction of nests. Decline of insect populations.

Did you know?

- The Canadian population has declined by 80% since 1970.
- It migrates to the Fraser Valley from wintering areas in Central and South America every spring.
- It will reuse old nests and usually returns to the same nesting area each year.
- [Click here to learn more.](#)

How you can help:

Do not disturb or remove the nests.

Join the [Nature Stewards](#) program for personalized property advice.

See a Barn Swallow or an active nest? – take a photo, record the location, and send it to outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca.

For any questions about this or other species at risk, contact the [Fraser Valley Conservancy](#).