



## 2.9 Billion Birds Gone

Recent estimates state that 2.9 billion birds of various species have disappeared in Canada and the U.S. since 1970. Even once common birds like barn swallows are facing significant population declines.

You can help reverse this decline!

### How can you help birds?

- Make windows obvious - window treatments are available.
- Keep outdoor lights off during migration - lights can disorient birds.
- Leave barn swallow nests intact year-round - they often re-use them.
- Do not remove trees during the nesting season (May-Sept).
- Keep your cats indoors.
- Volunteer on a bird conservation initiative in your area.

**Interested in becoming involved with swallow conservation in the Upper Columbia, or with swallow habitat enhancement on your private land?  
If so, please contact us.**

### Contact information:

Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project  
e: [swallows@wildsight.ca](mailto:swallows@wildsight.ca)

Support for the Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project is provided by:



UPPER COLUMBIA  
**SWALLOW  
CONSERVATION**  
FOR SPECIES AT RISK







A single barn swallow can consume 60 insects per hour or a whopping 850 per day!



Prior to European settlement, barn swallow's nesting habitat was associated with natural features such as holes, caves, crevices and ledges on rocky cliff faces. Since European settlement, barn swallows have mostly shifted their habitat preference to human-made structures, such as bridges, buildings and ledges, although they do still nest in natural habitats too. Their population has declined by 76% over a 40 year period in Canada.

The barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) is a blue-listed species in BC and is classified as threatened federally, under the Species at Risk Act.

The bank swallow population in Canada has declined by 98% over a 40 year period. Reasons for this significant decline are not well understood, but are thought to be cumulative, including loss of breeding and foraging habitat, collision with vehicles, widespread pesticide use, climate change and destruction of nest sites. The bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) is classified as threatened federally, protected under the Species at Risk Act.



The Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project has identified significant breeding habitat for Bank and Barn Swallows in the Columbia Valley. The project is working on several swallow conservation initiatives throughout the region.

If you would like to be involved, please contact: [swallows@wildsight.ca](mailto:swallows@wildsight.ca)

All migratory birds, their nests and their eggs, are protected by provincial and federal laws and are not to be disturbed during the breeding season.

Did you know the Columbia Valley is home to six swallow species!

