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Bank Swallows: Life history, threats, and ways you can help

WHAT ARE AERIAL INSECTIVORES?

A group of birds that eat insects while in flight, such as swifts, swallows, flycatchers, and nightjars.

CHARACTERISTICS

- They have long wings, short beaks, big eyes for spotting insects, short legs, and typically have shorter necks.
- They are amazing aerial acrobats.
- They are migratory.

STATUS

- Aerial insectivores are a group at risk.
- The 2019 state of Canada's birds report shows that Canada has lost 59% of its aerial insectivore populations.
- Over the last 10 years, 80% of the bird species newly listed as threatened or endangered in Canada were aerial insectivores.

THREATS

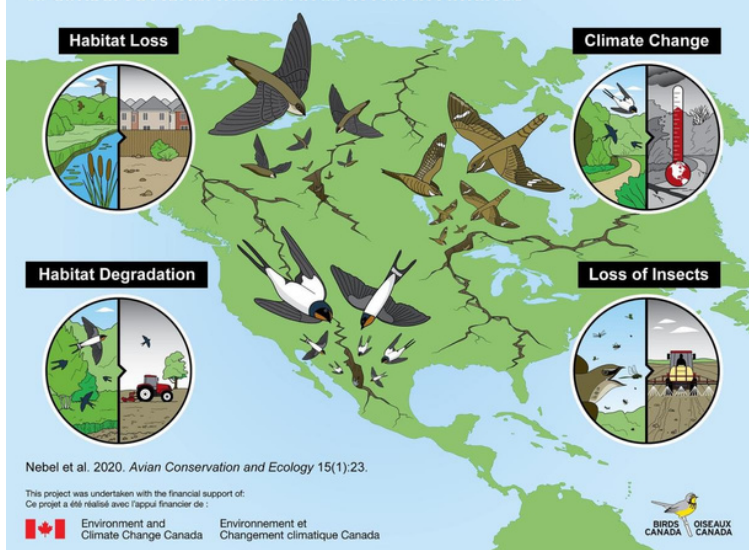
- Aerial insect decline
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Climate change



Photo: Shari and Brock Fenton

BANK SWALLOW

Falling through the policy cracks: Implementing a roadmap to conserve Aerial Insectivores in North America



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join the SwiftWatch program, Atlantic Canada Bank Swallow Monitoring program, and the Canadian Nightjar survey.
- Get out and bird! Use Apps like Seek, iNaturalist, eBird, and NatureCounts to identify birds, report sightings, and contribute to community science.
- Help birds by taking action at home. For example, garden for birds, put up stickers to stop window collisions, and keep your cat indoors.
- Discover how your brick or clay chimney can help Chimney Swift populations and find out more about the Chimney Swift Fund.
- Learn about naturalizing waterfront property through the Natural Edge program or your coastal property through Helping Nature Heal Inc.