

# Swallows of Salmon Arm Bay

## Did you know?

**Six** species of swallows inhabit Salmon Arm Bay from early April throughout the summer. After raising families, they leave by late September to winter in the southern US or as far south as Argentina. Sharp-eyed birders can find all 6 similar-sized species in a single day! Sometimes, when conditions are just right, you can see thousands of swallows foraging over the quiet waters of Shuswap Lake as they catch insects to fuel their migrations.

## How Can You Help?

Avoid using pesticides. Instead, let the birds control insects in your garden. Keep cats indoors so your yard is a safe haven. Add nest boxes to your yard, or leave a few dead and large living trees standing for woodpeckers, that will in turn provide homes for some types of swallows. Enjoy watching birds and share your discoveries with others.



### Tree Swallow

These handsome swallows have an enormous appetite for flying insects, including mosquitoes. Cavity nesters, their natural nests are in tree holes excavated by woodpeckers in trees lining the bay. They also take advantage of the human-built nest boxes you will see along the shoreline.



### Violet-green Swallow

These swallows may be seen capturing high-flying insects around cliffs, in urban and treeless open areas, as well as riparian habitats like the edges of the bay. Like tree swallows, they will use nesting boxes put up by people, but woodpecker holes and rock-crevices are their natural homes.



### Northern Rough-winged Swallow

This tawny brown swallow is named for the nearly invisible curved barbs on the outer edges of the male's primary wing feathers. With an elegant long-winged flight style, they fly low over open water to catch insects. They nest in burrows or crevices along streams and road cuts, or even in openings in retaining walls.



### Bank Swallow

Bank Swallows usually excavate nests near the top of a sandy bank or cliff face. While there are few suitable cliffs right along the bay shore here, you'll find them foraging over the bay along with other species of swallows. If you are lucky, you might see several resting in a tree or boat railing giving you a good look at their distinctive dark breast bands.



### Cliff Swallow

Cliff Swallows build gourd-shaped mud nests in tightly packed groups on cliffs, bridges, pillars and structural beams, or under eaves of buildings... like those at the end of the Salmon Arm wharf. They can easily be mistaken for Barn Swallows. Look for their distinctive face-pattern, orange rumps and short tails.



### Barn Swallow

This graceful swallow with its long, deeply-forked tail can easily be confused with Cliff Swallows. Barn Swallows prefer to place their cupped-shaped mud-pellet nests on barn rafters, eaves of houses and other structures that provide shelter from rain and protection from predators. For example, they often nest under the Salmon Arm Wharf!



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