

# 307 Barn Swallow



Barn Swallow. Spring. Adult. Male (29-III).

## BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

### IDENTIFICATION

17-20 cm. Blue metallic upperparts; deep chestnut forehead and throat; pale underparts; long outermost tail feathers.



Barn Swallow: pattern of head, tail and rump.



### SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Red-rumped Swallow**, which has pale rump and neck band, lacking chestnut on the head. **House Martin** lacks chestnut on the head and has a white rump.



Red-rumped Swallow



House Martin

### SEXING

Sexes with very similar plumage, but **females** usually duller and with the outermost tail feathers shorter than **males**. Since this species has a very variable size throughout Europe, it is not possible to give measurements if the geographical origin of the specimen is unknown. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed. **CAUTION:** some males, mainly in autumn, have broken the outermost tail feathers.

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Barn Swallow. Ageing. Length of the outermost tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile/1st year.

Barn Swallow. Sexing. Length of the outermost tail feathers: left male; right female.

### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with very pale forehead and throat; short and rounded outermost tail feathers; dull plumage.

**1st year** in birds with moulted feathers of throat and forehead, being recognized only by their short outermost tail feathers.

**Adult** with deep chesnut forehead and throat; long and pointed outermost tail feathers; dark metallic blue plumage.

After the **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moult, ageing is not possible using plumage characters.

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, which can start in Europe and finish in wintering quarters.

### PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

### STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Breeds commonly in buildings throughout the Region, absent from the highest zones of the Pyrenees and the most deforested areas of the Ebro Basin.



Barn Swallow. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.



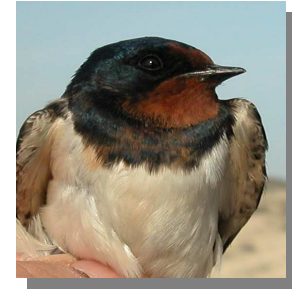
Barn Swallow. Spring. Adult. Female (29-III).



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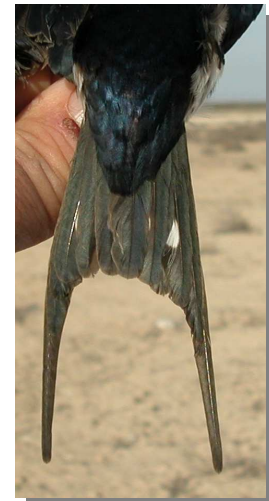
Barn Swallow. Spring. Juvenile (26-VI).



Barn Swallow. Spring. Pattern of breast and chestnut patches on throat: top left adult male (29-III); top right adult female (29-III); left juvenile (26-VI).



Barn Swallow. Spring. Head pattern: top adult male (29-III); middle adult female (29-III); bottom juvenile (26-VI).



Barn Swallow. Spring. Length of the outermost tail feathers: top left adult male (29-III); top right adult female (29-III); left juvenile (26-VI).

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Barn Swallow. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (16-III).



Barn Swallow. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of



Barn Swallow. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (26-VI).



Barn Swallow. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left adult male (29-III); top right adult female (29-III); left juvenile (26-VI).



Barn Swallow. Autumn. Adult. Male (24-VIII).



Barn Swallow. Autumn. Adult. Female (24-VIII).



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Barn Swallow. Autumn. 1st year (24-VIII).



Barn Swallow. Autumn. Breast pattern: top left adult male (24-VIII); top right adult female (24-VIII); left 1st year (24-VIII).



Barn Swallow. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult male (24-VIII); middle adult female (24-VIII); bottom 1st year (24-VIII).



Barn Swallow. Autumn. Length of the outermost tail feathers: top left adult male (24-VIII); top right adult female (24-VIII); left 1st year (24-VIII).

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Barn Swallow. Autumn. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (24-VIII).



Barn Swallow. Autumn. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (24-VIII).



Barn Swallow. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: top left adult male (24-VIII); top right adult female (24-VIII); left 1st year (24-VIII).



Barn Swallow. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (24-VIII).