

Caring for your Habitat Structure

TREE SWALLOW



Thank you!

By installing this habitat structure, you are providing an essential nesting area for wildlife in need. Landowners, like you, play a vital role in providing habitat for wildlife in the Credit River watershed.

Habitat

Tree swallows are found in open areas near shorelines, streams, lakes and marshes.

When to Expect Them

Mid-May to July

Call

Sounds like: “Cheet” or “chi-veet”

Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Open field, grassland, near water
Height off Ground (m)	2
Entrance Hole Facing	South or East
Spacing	45 m apart
Attach to	Pole
Installation Time	September to April

Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material and wipe the box clean before the breeding season begins in May. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom of the box and rotate the moveable panel upward. Clean the box again once the young have fledged as other songbirds such as the eastern bluebird may use the box for a second brood.

Interesting Fact

Tree swallows line their nests with white feathers. Nests containing more feathers are associated with increased nesting survival. Swallows will use feathers of other birds (such as chickens) if they are provided.

What Else Can You Do to Help?

There are actions you can take to provide natural nesting sites for tree swallows on your property, reducing the need for nest boxes. Leaving dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people can provide shelter and breeding space. Planting native species such as pussy willow, new England aster and Pennsylvania sedge can help provide food and shelter for tree swallows.

Photo Credit: Credit Valley Conservation