

Response Statement - Barn Swallow

January 10, 2022

Common Name: Barn Swallow

Scientific Name: *Hirundo rustica*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Special Concern

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: On 2021-10-12, the Minister of the Environment received the COSEWIC reassessment of the Barn Swallow, which concluded its status has changed to Special Concern; it was previously assessed as Threatened and is listed as such on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. Within 24 months of this date, the Minister will seek to obtain a Governor in Council decision on whether or not to amend the List for this species, or whether to refer the matter back to COSEWIC for further information or consideration. A summary of the consultations and an analysis of why the order is appropriate will be provided. During the extended consultations, the Minister of the Environment will undertake extended consultations with the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, Indigenous peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Barn Swallow should have its status on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* of Threatened changed to Special Concern, or whether the matter should be referred back to COSEWIC. The Minister of the Environment will also consult with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB), the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB), the Wildlife Management Advisory Council - Northwest Territories (WMAC-NWT), the Nisga'a Wildlife Committee (NWC), the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC), the Wildlife Management Advisory Council - North Slope, the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB), the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) and the Nisga'a WMB (Nass Wildlife Committee).

Once a species has been assessed by COSEWIC, further steps must be undertaken before it is added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information on this process, please view [The Species Listing Process Under SARA](#).

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This aerial insectivore is among the world's most widespread birds, with about 6.4 million mature individuals in Canada. It experienced a substantial population decline in North America over more than two decades, beginning in the mid-to-late 1980s. However, the Canadian population has remained largely stable over the past ten years (2009-2019), with a substantial increase in Saskatchewan largely offsetting ongoing declines in several other provinces. Key threats include declining populations of insect prey, increasing frequency of severe temperature fluctuations during spring migration and the breeding season, and in some regions, loss of suitable nesting sites. Although the Canadian population remains large and overall declines have abated, the species may once again become Threatened if threats continue or worsen.

Occurrence: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

Newfoundland and Labrador

New Brunswick

Nova Scotia

Prince Edward Island

Yukon

Northwest Territories

Nunavut

Other applicable legislation: This species is protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation. Where it occurs in a National Wildlife Area this species is subject to the *Wildlife Area Regulations* under the *Canada Wildlife Act*, which prohibits activities that could be harmful to species and to their habitat, unless a permit is issued indicating the permitted activity.

Conservation activities underway: The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) is included in the Multi-species Action Plan for Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park of Canada, The Multi-species Action Plan for Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site of Canada, the Multi-species Action Plan for Georgian Bay Islands National Park of Canada, the Multi-species Action Plan for Grasslands National Park of Canada, The Multi-species Action Plan for Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada, The Multi-species Action Plan for Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site, The Multi-species Action Plan for Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada, The Multi-species Action Plan for Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada and associated National Historic Sites of Canada, The Multi-species Action Plan for La Mauricie National Park and National Historic Sites of La Mauricie and Western Quebec regions, The Multi-species Action Plan for Point Pelee National Park of Canada and the Niagara National Historic Sites of Canada, The Multi-species Action Plan for Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada, The Multi-species Action Plan for Pukaskwa National Park of Canada, The Multi-species Action Plan for Rouge National Urban Park of Canada and in the The Multi-species Action Plan for Thousand Islands National Park of Canada that are published as final on the Species at Risk Registry. The Residence Description for Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) in Canada is also published on the Species at Risk Public Registry.