

TREE SWALLOW
(TACHYGINETA BICOLOR)

Navajo/Federal Statuses: NESL G4 / MBTA; not listed under the ESA.

Distribution: Breeding range includes most of central and northern North America, but is a local breeder in AZ and NM; winters in extreme southern US, Mexico, and Central America. Known from Chuska Mountains on Navajo Nation; but potential occurs throughout forested areas of Navajo Nation.

Habitat: Breeds in existing cavities of variety of tree species (coniferous and deciduous); often uses snags in open fields near water, especially marshes and wooded ponds.

Similar Species: Bank Swallow has brown dorsum and breastband; Northern Rough-winged Swallow has brown dorsum and dusky throat; Violet-green Swallow has a greener dorsum and white patches on sides of rump; Cliff Swallow has rusty-colored rump and dark throat; Barn Swallow has a dark throat and deeply-forked tail; White-throated Swift has white rump patches and black side patches on breast.

Phenology:

l.MAR-e.MAY: arrival to breeding area, courtship, nest-building
m.MAY-l.JUN: egg-laying and incubation (14-15 days)
l.MAY-e.AUG: nestling period (18-22 days)
m.JUN-e.AUG: fledging, independence of young (3 days post-fledge)
m.AUG-l.SEP: migration to wintering area

Survey Method: ≥ 1 pedestrian survey with high-power optics during 1 May-15 JUL for individuals, or year-round for potential habitat.

Avoidance: No activity within 0.2 km (1/8 mi) of active nest site during 1 MAY-1 AUG; buffer may be less depending on activity type and duration, but not less than 0.1 km; no habitat alteration year-round within 0.2 km of nest site (=12 ha or 30 acre).

References:

Roberston, R.J., Stutchbury, B.J., and R.R. Cohen. 1992. Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*). In *The Birds of North America*, No.11 (A.Poole, P.Stettenheim, and F.Gill, eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union. (description p.2).