

Bird of the Month - April

Tree Swallow

IDENTIFICATION

- MALES - Dark blue above, white below
- FEMALES & JUVENILES - Dusky brown above, white below

FOOD

- Flying insects like dragonflies, bees, gnats and mosquitoes

PREDATORS

- Falcons, sharp-shinned Hawks, snakes and squirrels

BEHAVIORS AND FUN FACTS

- Early migrants, begin arriving in early March
- Leave the wetlands by mid-September
- Nest in the 180+ nest boxes distributed around the wetlands
- Nest in tree cavities if boxes are unavailable
- Both male and female feed the young after hatching
- Will take small feathers from your hand to line their nests
- Abundant but the population is slowly dropping across the continent
- They need calcium to make eggs so they sometimes eat discarded egg shells



Male Tree Swallow



Female Tree Swallow



Tree Swallow in Nestbox