

# Caring for your Habitat Structure

## TREE SWALLOW



CREDIT VALLEY  
CONSERVATION



### 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 when the young have fledged. 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 available.

### **What Else Can You Do to Help?**

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for tree swallows on your property, reducing the need for nest boxes. Leave dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people to provide shelter and breeding space. Plant native species such as pussy willow, new England aster and Pennsylvania sedge to help provide food and shelter.

*Photo Credit: Kelly Colgan Azar*