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## Barn Swallow Nest Survey Results for Landowners

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From May through September, biologists from A Rocha Canada surveyed **31 active Barn Swallow nests** at **16 sites** in the Little Campbell River watershed. These surveys contributed to an ongoing nest monitoring program beginning in 2014, with the purpose of informing conservation management of this threatened species. Our activities involved checking nests once a week using a mirror or camera attached to an extendable pole. We counted the number of eggs and chicks inside the nests and estimated nest success.

This year, the first Barn Swallow eggs were observed on May 5, with first chicks appearing on May 19. 80% of nests with known fate successfully fledged at least one first-brood chick, and clutch survival averaged 68% (Table 1). Second broods were observed in 50% of all nests.

**Table 1. Barn Swallow nest survey results across years**

	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Buildings surveyed (with active nests)	7	14	11	12	18	16	16
Active nests surveyed	25	27	28	30	42	33	31
Average first laying date	June 7	June 4	June 2	June 2	May 26	May 27	May 25
First-brood nest success <sup>1</sup>	89%	85%	75%	68%	69%	71%	80%
Average first-brood clutch survival <sup>2</sup>	75%	77%	58%	70%	59%	54%	68%
Rate of second broods	60%	32%	43%	32%	40%	58%	50%

<sup>1</sup>Nest success indicates at least one chick successfully fledged

<sup>2</sup>Clutch survival = number of fledglings / number of eggs



Left: Barn Swallow chicks in nest  
Right: Photo of recently hatched chicks taken with our cavity inspection camera

We are extremely grateful to all the landowners who allowed us to monitor Barn Swallow nests on their properties, especially those who collected data for us. We would also like to thank Campbell Valley Park and the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club for allowing us access throughout the season. This work was partially funded by a grant from Birds Canada's Baillie Memorial Fund.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us:

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You can help protect Barn Swallows by:

- Not using pesticides – Barn Swallow rely on flying insects for food
- Building and maintaining farm ponds or wetlands
- Preserve natural habitat and plant native flowers, trees and shrubs
- Leaving barn and shed doors and windows open
- Installing nest cups or shelves in barns or below overhangs to encourage swallow nesting