Tree Swallow

Tachycineta bicolor

Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes

Conservation Status

Heritage	*Agency*		
G Rank: G5	USFWS/NOAA:	BLM:	AA:
S Rank: S5B	SOA:	USFS:	IUCN: Least Concern

Final Rank

Conservation category: **V. Orange**

V = unknown status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need

Category	Range	Score
Status:	-20 to 20	0
Biological:	-50 to 50	-44
Action:	-40 to 40	6

Higher numerical scores denote greater concern

Status - variables measure the trend in a taxon's population status or distribution. Higher status scores denote taxa with known declining trends. Status scores range from -20 (increasing) to 20 (decreasing). **Score**

Population Trend (-10 to 10) 0

Alaska BBS data has some deficiencies (credibility category 2) and does not have a significant trend (1980-2007, t= 2.7, P= 0.36, N= 69). Survey-wide data has some deficiencies (credibility category 2) and a significant negative trend (1980-2007, t= -1.0, P= 0.00, N= 2185; USGS 2008c).

Distribution Trend (-10 to 10) 0

Unknown.

Status Total: 0

Biological - variables measure aspects of a taxon's distribution, abundance and life history. Higher biological scores suggest greater vulnerability to extirpation. Biological scores range from -50 (least vulnerable) to 50 (most vulnerable). **Score**

Population Size (-10 to 10) -10

Alaska population estimated at 2,000,000 birds (Rosenberg 2004a).

Range Size (-10 to 10) -10

Common summer resident in southeastern, southcoastal, southwestern, central, and western Alaska. Casual in northern Alaska (Armstrong 2008). Nests from southeast north to the Brooks Range and west on the Seward Peninsula and to about the limit of trees on the Alaska Peninsula and in the Kuskokwim, Yukon, and Kobuk Valleys (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Kessel 1989). > 400,000 square kilometers.

Population Concentration (-10 to 10) -10

Reproductive Potential

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5) -5

If the opportunity exists, both sexes breed as yearlings (Robertson et al. 1992).

Number of Young (-5 to 5) 1

Clutch size usually 4-6 eggs (NatureServe 2007b).

Ecological Specialization

Dietary (-5 to 5) -5

Feeds mostly on flying insects (Robertson et al. 1992, NatureServe 2007b). Nestlings eat entirely insects. Unlike other swallows, adults may eat berries, seeds, and nonflying invertebrates in addition to flying insects (Bent 1942). Beal (1918) analyzed the stomach contents of adults caught throughout the year in many locations and 80% of the diet was animal matter and 20% vegetable matter. Most of the contents were diptera (41%), beetles (14%), and ants (6%); and smaller amounts of grasshoppers, dragonflies, and spiders.

Habitat (-5 to 5) -5

Inhabits wooded areas near water, such as lakes, larger streams, marshes, and wet muskegs, especially if dead trees are abundant. Closely tied to human settlements in tundra areas. Nests in tree cavities and sometimes in buildings and bird boxes (Armstrong 2008). On Seward Peninsula, nests mainly in artificial habitats, such as bird boxes, openings in pipes, old buildings, and mining dredges, but also use natural cavities in mature balsam poplars (Kessel 1989).

Biological Total: -44

Action - variables measure current state of knowledge or extent of conservation efforts directed toward a given taxon. Higher action scores denote greater information needs due of lack of knowledge or conservation action. Action scores range from -40 (lower needs) to 40 (greater needs).

Score

Management Needs (-10 to 10) 2

Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918).

Monitoring Needs (-10 to 10) 0

Monitored along some BBS routes, data has some deficiencies when calculating a trend (USGS 2008c).

Research Needs (-10 to 10) 2

Breeding populations are limited by availability of nest sites, in some populations the majority of yearling females do not breed due to competitive disadvantage in obtaining nest site (Stutchbury and Robertson 1985). Extreme weather may cause periodic reductions in breeding numbers (Kuerzi 1949).

Survey Needs (-10 to 10) 2

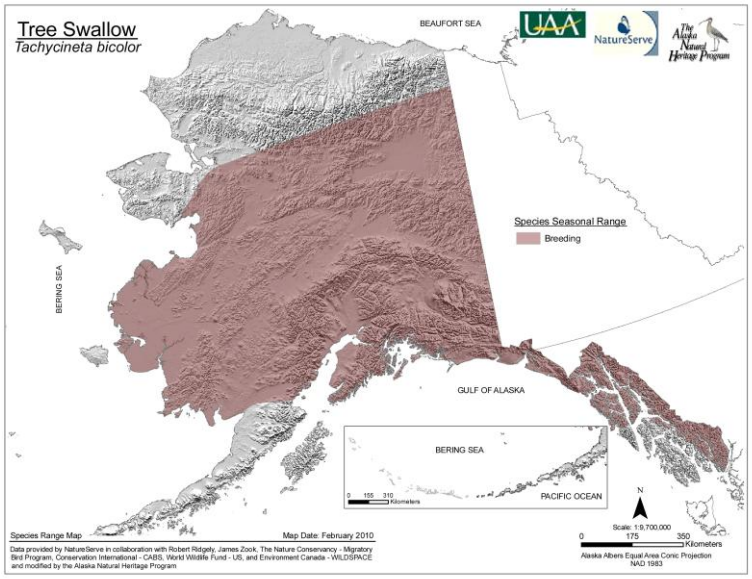
Broad range described in Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959). Habitat associations described in several areas, such as on the Kenai Peninsula (Quinlan 1978), Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), Tanana Valley (Hannah et al. 2003). Surveyed on BBS routes and locally in surveys.

Action Total: 6

Supplemental Information - variables do not receive numerical scores. Instead, they that are used to sort taxa to answer specific biological or managerial questions.

Harvest:	None or Prohibited
Seasonal Occurrence:	Breeding
Taxonomic Significance:	Monotypic species
% Global Range in Alaska:	>10%
% Global Population in Alaska:	<25%
Peripheral:	No

Range Map



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For details on the development of the ASRS and criteria, please see: Gotthardt, T. A., K. M. Walton, and T. L. Fields. 2012. Setting Conservation Priorities for Alaska's Wildlife Action Plan. Alaska Natural Heritage Program, University of Alaska Anchorage, AK.