

The Status of
Bank Swallow
(*Riparia riparia riparia*)

in Newfoundland and Labrador



Photo by "Myosotis Scorpioides"; from [en.wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org). Used by permission under Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 3.0 License

**THE SPECIES STATUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 23**

October 14, 2009

RECOMMENDED STATUS

Recommended status: Not at Risk	Current designation: None
Criteria met: None	
Reasons for designation: Even though populations of this species appear to be experiencing declines in some neighboring jurisdictions, there is insufficient evidence to establish that the species is presently at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador	

The original version of this report was prepared by Kathrin J. Munro and was subsequently edited by the Species Status Advisory Committee.

STATUS REPORT

Riparia riparia riparia (Linnaeus, 1758)

Bank Swallow; Hirondelle de ravage, Sand Martin

Family: Hirundinidae (Swallows)

Life Form: Bird (Aves)

Systematic/Taxonomic Clarifications:

There are three recognized subspecies of Bank Swallow.

R. r. riparia (Linnaeus, 1758): Breeds throughout North America, Eurasia, Mediterranean region, and northwestern Africa; winters in Central and South America and Africa (Cramp *et al.*, 1988).

R. r. diluta (Sharpe and Wyatt, 1893): Breeds from Siberia and western Mongolia south to eastern Iran, Afghanistan, northern India, and southeastern China. Vagrant to arctic North America and Bermuda (Phillips, 1986).

R. r. shelleyi (Sharpe, 1885): Breeds in lower Egypt with winter grounds in northeastern Africa.

Riparia riparia riparia is the subject of this report.

Distribution

Global:

North America (excluding Canada):

United States of America: Breeds throughout most of the northern states, as well as in Alaska (Kessel and Gibson, 1978): Alaska, Washington, Oregon, northern California, northern Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, northern New Mexico, south-central Texas, eastern Kansas, northeastern Oklahoma, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, northeastern Arkansas, Illinois, western Tennessee, western Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, northwestern Ohio, Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Maryland, western Virginia, eastern West Virginia, western North Carolina, New York, Connecticut, Rhode

Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine (Garrison, 1999; Figure 1).

Mexico: Breeds in northeastern Mexico (Garrison, 1999). Fairly common winter resident along Pacific coast of southern Mexico from southern Sinaloa to northeastern Guerrero (Howell and Webb, 1995; Figure 1).

Saint-Pierre et Miquelon (France): Breeds on the Isthmus between Miquelon and Langlade (W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data).

Central America: Winters in eastern Panama (Garrison, 1999).

Caribbean: Winters in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (Garrison, 1999; Figure 1).

South America: Winter range extends southward, east of the Andes, to northern Argentina, Paraguay, and northern Chile (Ridgely and Tudor, 1989; Garrison, 1999).

Europe: Widespread breeder throughout most of Europe from northern Scandinavia, south to the Mediterranean region (Turner and Rose, 1989). Winter range includes the Mediterranean (Garrison 1999).

Asia and Africa: Breeds in Israel, Algeria, and Morocco. (Dement'ev and Gladkov, 1968; Cramp *et al.*, 1988; Turner and Rose, 1989). Winter range includes central and south Africa.

National: (Figure 1)

Breeds in Yukon, southwestern Northwest Territories, northern and eastern British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, southern Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador (Godfrey, 1986; Cadman *et al.*, 1987; Erskine, 1992).

Provincial: (Figure 2 and 3)

Insular Newfoundland: Occurs widely. Known to breed in southwestern and western Newfoundland, and on the Avalon Peninsula. Suspected to breed at Gander and Glovertown.

Labrador: Occurs widely. Known to have bred at Twin Falls and near Orma Lake in west-central Labrador, and at Goose Bay and Northwest River in east-central Labrador. Possibly breeds at Labrador City.

Annotated North and Central American Range Map

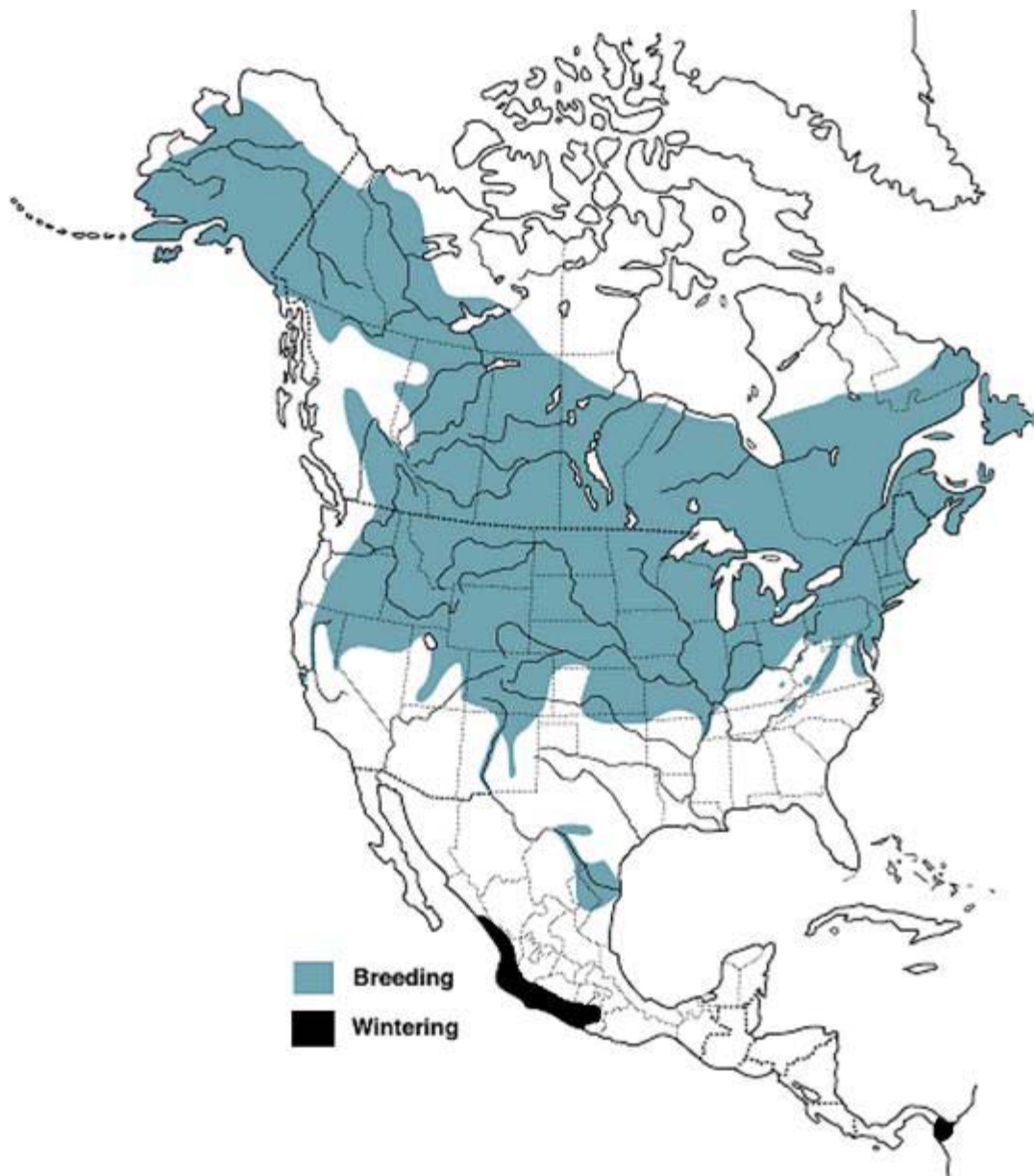


Figure 1. North and Central American distribution of *Riparia riparia riparia* (Modified after Garrison, 1999, used with permission; with additional Newfoundland data).

Annotated Provincial Range Maps

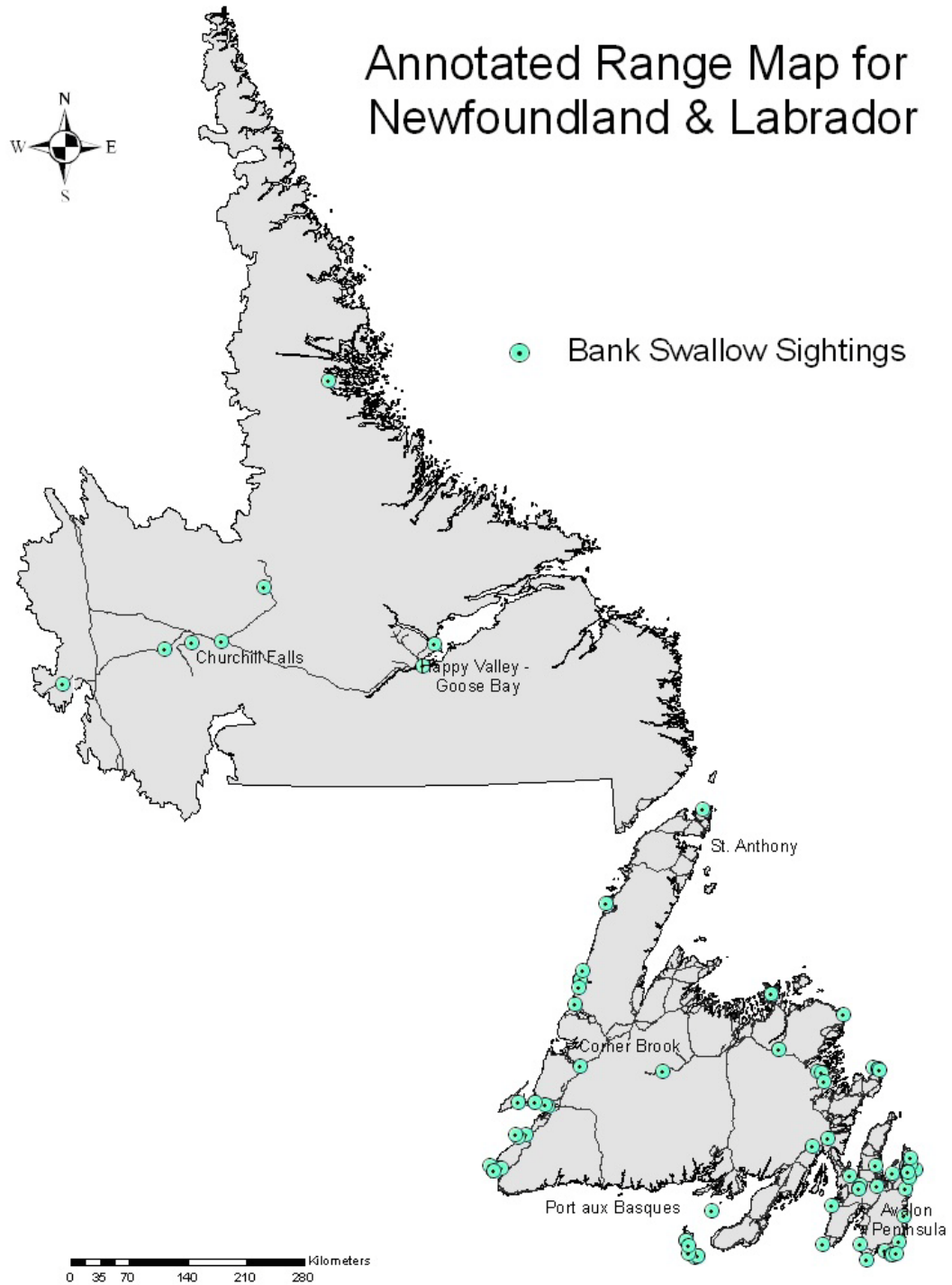


Figure 2. Known occurrence localities for Bank Swallows in Newfoundland and Labrador.

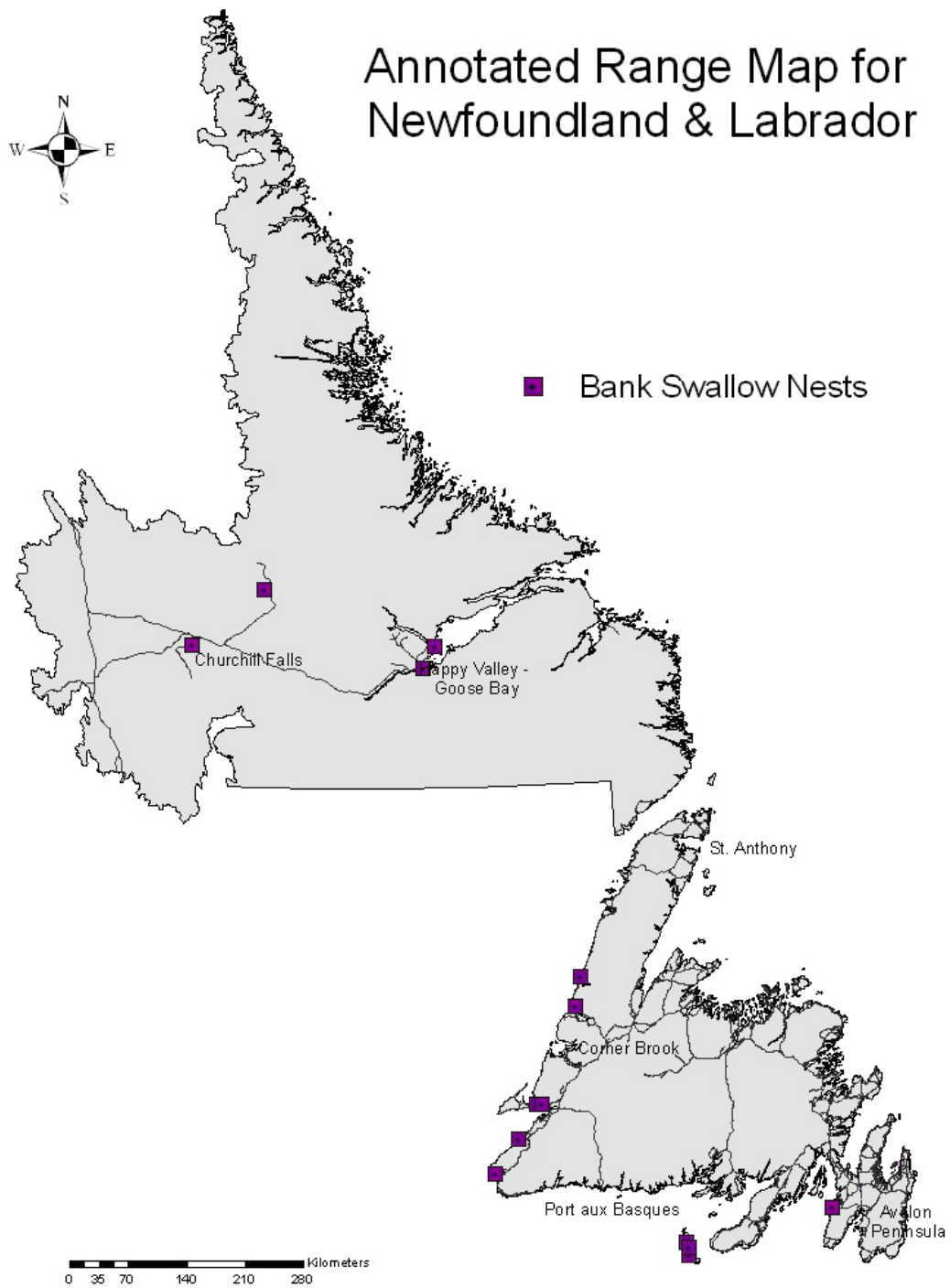


Figure 3. Known breeding localities for Bank Swallows in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Description

The smallest North American swallow: length 12 cm, wing-length 89-111 cm, mass 10.2-18.8 g (Turner and Rose, 1989). Sexes similar in appearance and plumage throughout year. Adult has a grayish-brown mantle, rump, wing-coverts, darker brown remiges and retrices; tertials are brown or brown with pale edgings; throat white, with distinct brown breast-band and grayish-brown crown. Slight notch in medium-length tail. Juveniles are distinguished from adults by buff-edged or whitish upperparts, and buffy-pink wash to throat.

Habitat

Throughout the species' range, nesting habitat is primarily found in lowland areas along ocean coasts, rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands. Along rivers and streams, nesting habitat is characterized by low-gradient, meandering waters, with eroding streamside banks. In coastal areas and lakeshores, nesting habitat is found in wind eroded banks, cliffs, and bluffs, and in vertical faces created by storms and tidal action. Nesting may also occur in artificially-created sites such as sand and gravel quarries and road cuts. Nests are generally excavated in crumbly, alluvial soils (Figures 4 and 5).

Foraging habitat includes open water, wetlands, grasslands, riparian woodlands, agricultural areas, shrublands, and occasionally upland wooded areas. Bank Swallows tend to avoid dense forest and woodlands, deserts, and montane and alpine areas, because of a lack of suitable nesting habitat.

In Newfoundland, breeding has been reported in low-lying sand-pits at St. George's Bay (Arnold, 1912); in sand banks on shorelines at St. Andrews and the Codroy Gut (Lois Bateman, pers. comm.); in sand-clay banks (approximately 40-50 ft. high near the sea), in sandy dunes, in turf atop sea cliffs and in gravel pits (W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data); and in aeolian (ie. ancient wind-drifted) deposits on top of Salmon Point, Rocky Harbour (J. Maunder, pers. comm.).

During spring and fall migration, Bank Swallows occupy a variety of open and water-associated habitats. Little is known about wintering habitat; the species likely occupies grassland, savanna, open agricultural areas, and freshwater and brackish areas.



Figure 4. Bank swallow nests in Newfoundland (Canadian Wildlife Service photo).



Figure 5. Bank swallow and nests in Newfoundland [close-up of Figure 4] (Canadian Wildlife Service photo).

Overview of Biology

Bank Swallow colonies range in size from 10 to almost 2,000 active nests (Cramp *et al.* 1988, Garrison, 1999). Erosion is the main determinant to a colony's longevity and size. Nest-site fidelity is therefore often low due to the temporary nature of the nesting banks.

The male starts excavating the burrow before he has secured a mate, but construction is continued by both sexes; the nest is finished by the female (Cramp *et al.* 1988). The whole process of excavation and nest-building normally takes about 5-8 days. Average clutch size varies between 3 and 5 eggs. Eggs are laid 1 per day during night or early morning. Incubation is initiated 1-2 days before the clutch is complete and can last 13-16 days (Turner and Rose, 1989). Hatching of the entire brood take 2-3 days. On average, young fledge at 18-24 days and are independent from their parents at 30 days. Both females and males are capable of breeding within their first year (Cramp *et al.*, 1988), and breed once a year thereafter.

There is no information on lifetime reproductive success (Garrison, 1999). Breeding success is greater in early nests than in later ones and a higher degree of brood synchronization results in greater breeding success (Sieber, 1980). Within a colony, peripheral nests are subject to greater predation than are central nests (Freer, 1977). Overall hatching success has been reported as being between 69-91% (Asbirk, 1976; Hjertaas *et al.*, 1988), with an average of 3 young fledging per nest (Campbell *et al.*, 1997; Hjertaas *et al.*, 1988).

Life span and survivorship of Bank Swallows is not well known. Average annual mortality of birds banded as juveniles and adults is estimated to be 57-60% (Cowley, 1979; Persson, 1987). Average first-year mortality is an estimated 77-80% (Cowley, 1979). There are two records of Bank Swallows living at least 9 years (Petersen and Mueller, 1979; Szep, 1992).

Mammals, birds and snakes are known predators of the Bank Swallow. The American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) appears to be the main aerial predator, taking the birds on the wing. Snakes appear to be the most important land predator, owing to their ability to easily access nest burrows. However, American Kestrel are listed as very uncommon in Newfoundland (Mactavish *et al.*, 2003), and are not normally found in Labrador (Smallwood and Bird, 2002). As well, snakes do not occur naturally in the Province. See Garrison (1999) for more information.

Bank swallows are aerial feeders. They capture flying and jumping insects over lakes, ponds, rivers and streams, meadows, fields, pastures, and bogs; occasionally over forests and woodlands (Stoner, 1936; Gross, 1942; Turner and Rose, 1989). They will also occasionally eat terrestrial or aquatic insects or larvae. Foraging takes place between dawn and dusk and during the breeding

season usually takes place within 200m of nest-sites (Turner, 1980). Little information on diet and foraging is known during migration or on wintering grounds (Garrison, 1999).

The Bank Swallow is a medium-to-long-distance diurnal migrant. In North America, early spring marks the arrival of *R. riparia* at the breeding grounds. Birds depart in late summer or mid-fall for wintering grounds in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America (Garrison, 1999). Migration typically occurs within mixed-species flocks including Cliff (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*), Barn (*H. rustica*) and Tree (*Tachycineta bicolor*) Swallows. In Newfoundland, Bank Swallows are observed between the first week of May and the first week of November (W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data). In Labrador, the species has been observed between late June and early August (P. Linegar, pers. comm; W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data).

Population Size and Area of Occupancy

The species as a whole has an estimated global population of 46,000,000 individuals (Rich *et al.*, 2004). However, little information is available on population size in North America. The breeding population in California in 1987 was estimated at 111 colonies, with about 25,185 pairs (Laymon *et al.*, 1988).

Colony sizes are extremely variable, from fewer than 10 nesting pairs up to a couple thousand (Cramp *et al.*, 1988). Most colonies, however, have fewer than several hundred pairs. Some of the largest colonies reported comprise: 1,500 pairs in Ontario (Peck and James, 1987); 2,000 pairs in New York (Bull, 1985); 4,228 burrows in Hungary (Szep, 1991); and 6,000 burrows in Illinois (Fawks, 1938).

“Hundreds if not thousands” of Bank Swallow pairs appear to nest in Newfoundland and Labrador each year; they are thought to be more abundant in Labrador (P. Linegar, pers. comm.). Road construction in the 1960s and 70s may have temporarily created more breeding habitat for the birds; thus Bank Swallows may have been more plentiful during that period (P. Linegar, pers. comm.).

The species, as a whole, has a large global range estimated to be 10,000,000 km² (NatureServe, 2008).

In Newfoundland and Labrador, given a population estimate as vague as “hundreds if not thousands of pairs”, it is clearly impossible to calculate a useful figure for area of occupancy.

Aboriginal, Traditional and Local Ecological Knowledge

Members of the Innu Nation are aware of this species and have often observed them nesting in the hill where the bridge was built between Sheshatshiu and North West River, NL (V. Courtois, pers. comm.). The Federation of Newfoundland Indians and the Council of Conne River Mi'kmaq Band were contacted but no information was obtained.

Trends

In recent years, Bank Swallow populations have increased in western North America, but have decreased in eastern and central North America (Robbins *et al.* 1986)

For Canada, as a whole, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS; 2007) data shows a moderate decline following a rather modest peak in the late 1970's (BBS, 2007). More specifically, the BBS data shows more significant declines for both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick following somewhat steeper peaks about 1983, and a somewhat longer significant decline for Québec following a peak about 1969 (CWS, 2007).

For Newfoundland, all six BBS data sets (BBS; 2007) are inconclusive owing to sparse data. Although there is no anecdotal evidence of historical population change in Newfoundland and Labrador (P. Linegar, pers. comm.), national data and data from neighbouring provinces suggest that populations in this province are likely experiencing the same declines.

Threats and Limiting Factors

Throughout its range, the availability of nesting habitat is a major factor limiting size and distribution of Bank Swallow breeding populations (Cramp *et al.*, 1988). This point appears to hold true for Newfoundland and Labrador (P. Linegar, pers. comm.).

Human-caused agents of nesting habitat destruction include water flow changes, gravel-mining operations, road building, and increases in regulation of water flow from reservoirs that intensifies erosion (Garrison, 1999).

High waters from late-spring and early-summer rain storms cause burrows to erode or collapse, killing the nestlings. In Newfoundland, the collapse of the banks and dunes at nesting sites, due to bad weather/erosion, has been observed at Codroy Gut (Lois Bateman, pers. comm; W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data).

In one British study, vehicle collision was the primary cause of Bank Swallow mortality (45.2%; Mead, 1979). Juveniles and first-year birds are more likely to be hit by cars than adults. Additional mortality factors include: being shot; becoming entangled in fishing gear; and hitting wires, windows, buildings, and other human-created structures (Mead, 1979). There does not appear to be any information of this type for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Changes in flying insect populations almost certainly affect Bank Swallow distribution and abundance, however little is known on the subject in Newfoundland and Labrador. Insect management, with respect to outbreaks, clearly affects local insect populations. However, insect outbreaks tend to progress across the landscape, affecting different areas in sequence. For instance, sawfly outbreaks, which occurred in the Stephenville area from 1991-1995, are now occurring in the Cormack and Bonne Bay regions (Hubert Crummey, pers. comm.). Unfortunately, insect management targeted at pest species generally affects a wide range of insect species; and, by extension, almost certainly affects the food supply of insectivorous birds. However, the direct effects of insect management, on Bank Swallows, in the Province, has not been specifically studied.

Existing Protection

The Bank Swallow is protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (Canadian Wildlife Service, 1991). It is also found in Gros Morne National Park, Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve, and at least a few other protected areas where additional habitat and other protection may exist.

Special Significance

No known special significance for this species.

Collections Examined

None

Cited References and Other Sources of Information

- Arnold, E. 1912. A short summer outing in Newfoundland, 1911. *Auk* 29: 72-79. p. 78.
- Asbirk, S. 1976. Studies on the breeding biology of the Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (L.) (Aves) in artificial nest sites. *Vidensk. Dansk Naturh. Foren.* 139: 147–177.
- Breeding Bird Survey. 2007. USGS, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.
http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/trend/rtehtm07a_nlcd.html [Last accessed April 14, 2009]
- Bull, J. 1985. *Birds of New York State*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca.
- COSEWIC. 2008. The Prioritized Candidate Species List.
http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct3/sct3_1_e.cfm#p2 [Last accessed April 14, 2009]
- Cadman, M. D., P. F. J. Eagles, and F. M. Helleiner 1987. *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario*. University of Waterloo Press, Waterloo.
- Campbell, R. W., N. K. Dawe, I. McTaggart-Cowan, J. M. Cooper, and G. W. Kaiser. 1997. *The Birds of British Columbia*. Vol. 3. University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver.
- Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC). 2006. *Wild Species 2005: The General Status of Species in Canada*.
<http://www.wildspecies.ca/wildspecies2005/Results.cfm?lang=e&sec=9> [Last accessed April 14, 2009]
- Canadian Museum of Nature Bird Collection: Bank Swallow Records (accessed through the GBIF data portal,
<http://data.gbif.org/species/13815875/commonName/Bank%20Swallow>, specifically, <http://snipurl.com/fvkha> [slow intermediate download]) [Last accessed April 14, 2009]
- Canadian Wildlife Service. 1991. *Birds protected in Canada under the Migratory Birds Convention Act*. Occasional Paper Number 1. Environment Canada, Ottawa.
- Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). 2007. Trends from the Breeding Bird Survey in Canada: Bank Swallow. <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/mgbc/trends/index.cfm?lang=e&go=info.bird&speciesid=6160> [Last accessed April 14, 2009]
- Cowley, E. 1979. Sand Martin population trends in Britain, 1965–1978. *Bird Study* 26: 113–116.

- Cramp, S., D. J. Brooks, E. Dunn, R. Gillmor, and J. Hall-Craggs. 1988. The birds of the Western Palearctic. Vol. 5: tyrant flycatchers to thrushes. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK.
- Dement'ev, G. P. and N. A. Gladkov. 1968. Birds of the Soviet Union, Vol. 4. (Israel Program for Scientific Translations). Smithsonian Institution and National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- Erskine, A. J. 1992. Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces. Nimbus Publishing Limited and Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, NS.
- Fawks, E. 1938. Bird-Lore's second breeding-bird census. Second-growth hardwood. Bird-Lore 20: 296.
- Freer, V. M. 1977. Colony Structure and Function in the Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia* L. Ph.D. diss., State University of New York, Binghamton.
- Garrison, B. A. 1999. Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). The Birds of North America. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Ithaca.
- Garrison, B. A., J. M. Humphrey, and S. A. Laymon. 1987. Bank Swallow distribution and nesting ecology on the Sacramento River, California. Western Birds 18: 71–76.
- Godfrey, W. E. 1986. The Birds of Canada. Revised Edition. National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
- Gross, A. O. 1942. Bank swallow. Pp. 400-424 in Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows, and their allies (A. C. Bent, ed.). U. S. National Museum Bulletin 179.
- Hjertaas, D. G., P. Hjertaas, and W. J. Maher. 1988. Colony size and reproductive biology of the Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*, in Saskatchewan. Canadian Field-Naturalist 102: 465–470.
- Howell, S. N. G. and S. Webb. 1995. A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Kessel, B. and D. D. Gibson. 1978. Status and distribution of Alaska birds. Studies in Avian Biology 1.
- Laymon, S. A., B. A. Garrison, and J. M. Humphrey. 1988. Historic and Current Status of the Bank Swallow in California, 1987. California Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Division. Administrative Report 882.

- Mactavish, B., J. E. Maunder, W. A. Montevecchi, J. L. Wells, and D. A. Fifield. 2003. Checklist of the birds of insular Newfoundland and its continental shelf waters. Natural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Box 1013, St. John's, NL, A1C 5M3. http://www.nhs.nf.ca/cbc_etc/checklist.htm [Last accessed April 14, 2009]
- Mead, C. J. 1979. Mortality and causes of death in British Sand Martins. *Bird Study* 26: 107–112.
- Montevecchi, W. A. and L. M. Tuck. 1987. Newfoundland Birds: Exploitation, study, conservation. Publications of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, No. 21. 273 pp.
- nf.birds. 2008. Online Google Group. <http://groups.google.ca/group/nf.birds/> [Last accessed April 14, 2009]
- NatureServe. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer> [Last accessed April 14, 2009]
- Peck, G. K. and R. D. James. 1987. Breeding Birds of Ontario: nidiology and distribution. Vol. 2: passerines. Royal Ontario Museum. Life Sciences Miscellaneous Publications. Toronto.
- Persson, C. 1987. Age structure, sex ratios and survival rates in a south Swedish Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) population, 1964 to 1984. *J. Zool. Lond. (B)* 1: 639–670.
- Peters, H. S., and T. D. Burleigh. 1945. Some new records from Newfoundland. *Auk* 62: 564-567. p. 565.
- Petersen, P. C. and A. J. Mueller. 1979. Longevity and colony loyalty in Bank Swallows. *Bird-Banding* 50: 69–70.
- Phillips, A. R. 1986. The known birds of North and Middle America. Part I: Hirundinidae to Mimidae; Certhiidae. A. R. Phillips, Denver, CO.
- Rich, T. D., C. J. Beardmore, H. Berlanga, P. J. Blancher, M. S. W. Bradstreet, G. S. Butcher, D. W. Demarest, E. H. Dunn, W. C. Hunter, E. E. Inigo-Elias, J. A. Kennedy, A. M. Martell, A. O. Panjab, D. N. Pashley, K. V. Rosenberg, C. M. Rustay, J. S. Wendt, and T. C. Will. 2004. Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Ithaca. 84 pp.
- Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor. 1989. The birds of South America. Vol. 1. University of Texas Press, Austin.
- Robbins, C. S., D. Bystrak, and P. H. Geissler. 1986. The Breeding Bird Survey: its first fifteen years. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Resource Publication 157. iii + 196 pp.

- Sieber, O. 1980. Causal and functional aspects of brood distribution in Sand Martins (*Riparia riparia* L.). Z. Tierpsychol. 52: 19–56.
- Small, A. 1994. California Birds: their status and distribution. Ibis Publications, Vista, CA.
- Smallwood, J. A. and D. M. Bird. 2002. American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), The Birds of North America. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Ithaca.
- Stoner, D. 1936. Studies on the Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia riparia* (Linnaeus) in the Oneida Lake Region. Roosevelt Wildlife Annals 4: 126-233.
- Szep, T. 1991. Number and distribution of the Hungarian Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia* L., 1758) population breeding along the Hungarian reaches of the River Tisza. Aquila 98: 111–124.
- Szep, T. 1992. Nine years old Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) recovery in eastern Hungary. Aquila 99: 176, 189.
- Turner, A. K. 1980. The use of time and energy by aerial-feeding birds. PhD. Diss., University of Stirling, Scotland.
- Turner, A. K. and C. Rose. 1989. Swallows and Martins; an identification guide and handbook. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA.

Personal Communications:

- Bateman, Lois. Professor. Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, MUN. Corner Brook, NL. A2H 6P9. Email: lbateman@swgc.mun.ca
- Batten, Randy. Natural History Collections Manager, Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Rooms, St. John's, NL. P.O. Box 1800 Stn. C. A1C 5P9. Email: randybatten@therooms.ca ; keeper of the Newfoundland Nest Record Scheme files.
- Courtois, Valerie. Innu Nation Environment Office, Box 119, Sheshatshiu, Labrador, A0P 1M0. Email: vcourtois@innu.ca
- Crummey, Hubert. Supervisor. Insect and Disease Control, Department of Natural Resources, Fortis Building, Corner Brook. Email: hcrummey@gov.nl.ca
- Gallant, Roger. Aquatic Biologist, Federation of Newfoundland Indians. P.O. Box 956 Corner Brook, NL. A2H 6J3. Phone: (709) 634-9896 Email: roger@fni.nf.ca

Hinks, Ross. Director of Natural Resources, Council of Conne River Mi'kmaq Band. P.O. Box 10, Bay D'Espoir, Conne River, NL. A0H 1J0. Email: rhinks@mfn.gov.ca

Leonard, Tina. Natural Areas Ecologist, Parks and Natural Areas Division, Department of Environment and Conservation. 33 Reid's Lane, Deer Lake, NL. A8A 2A3 Phone: (709) 635-4631. Email: tinaleonard@gov.nl.ca

Linegar, Paul (Birder/Records compiler) Email: lcreelman@nf.sympatico.ca

Maunder, John. Curator of Natural History (retired). Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Rooms. Email: jem@nl.rogers.com

Montevecchi, W. A. Professor. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's. Email: mont@mun.ca

Rank or Status

Global	
G-rank	G5 (Secure)
IUCN	LC (Least concern)
National	
N-rank	N5B (Secure-breeding)
National General Status	Secure (4)
COSEWIC	Mid priority candidate for future assessment
Provincial	
Provincial General Status	Secure (4)
Newfoundland S-rank	S3B (Vulnerable-breeding)
Newfoundland General Status	Secure (4)
Labrador S-rank	S3B (Vulnerable-breeding)
Labrador General Status	Secure (4)
Adjacent Jurisdictions	
Nova Scotia S-Rank	S4B (Apparently secure-breeding)
Nova Scotia General Status	Secure (4)
Prince Edward Island S-Rank	S4B (Apparently secure-breeding)
Prince Edward Island General Status	Secure (4)
New Brunswick S-Rank	S3B (Vulnerable-breeding)
New Brunswick General Status	Sensitive (3)
Québec S-Rank	S4 (Apparently secure)
Québec General Status	Secure (4)

(Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC). 2006. Wild Species 2005: The General Status of Species in Canada; Wildlife Division, Newfoundland and Labrador; NatureServe)

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Distribution and Population Information	Criteria Assessment
<i>Extent of occurrence (EO)(km²) (breeding)</i>	230,000 km ²
<i>Area of occupancy (AO) (km²) (breeding)</i>	unknown (given the vagueness of the population estimate ["hundreds if not thousands" of pairs], it is impossible to extrapolate a useful number)
<i>Number of extant locations (breeding)</i>	11-13 known recent breeding locations (within the last 25 years); all may not still be extant since nest-site longevity is limited by erosion of nesting banks.
<i>Specify trend in # locations, EO, AO (decline, stable, increasing, unknown) (breeding)</i>	unknown
<i>Habitat trend: specify declining, stable, increasing or unknown trend in area, extent or quality of habitat</i>	unknown
<i>Generation time (average age of parents in the population) (indicate years, months, days, etc.)</i>	maximum age at least 9 years; average age considerably less
<i>Number of mature individuals (capable of reproduction) in the Provincial population (or, specify a range of plausible values)</i>	"hundreds if not thousands" of pairs
<i>Total population trend: specify declining, stable, increasing or unknown trend in number of mature individuals or number of populations</i>	unknown
<i>Are there extreme fluctuations (>1 order of magnitude) in number of mature individuals, number of locations, AO and/or EO?</i>	no
<i>Is the total population severely fragmented (most individuals found within small and isolated populations)</i>	breeding is restricted to concentrated colonies
Rescue Effect (immigration from an outside source)	
<i>Does species exist elsewhere?</i>	yes
<i>Status of the outside population(s)?</i>	declining
<i>Is immigration known or possible?</i>	yes
<i>Would immigrants be adapted to survive here?</i>	yes
<i>Is there sufficient habitat for immigrants here?</i>	unknown

Appendix A. Population Information

Historical Verified Occurrences/Range Use (recorded prior to the last 25 years)

Museum Collections Located (not an exhaustive list)

The Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador

Label data:

Riparia riparia [male]
Mouth of Little Codroy River
July 10, 1942
H.S. Peters and T. D. Burleigh
Biological Surveys: U. S. Department of the Interior #381596

Canadian Museum of Nature:

CMNVA 45547. July 1, 1959. Collector/Observer: Ouellet, Henri
[Highlands] 48.167°N, 58.9329°W. Sex: M; Preparation type: skin

CMNVA 45548. July 1, 1959. Collector/Observer: Ouellet, Henri
[Highlands] 48.167°N, 58.9329°W. Sex: F; Preparation type: skin

CMNVA 45549. July 9, 1959. Collector/Observer: Ouellet, Henri
[Stephenville Crossing] 48.5°N, 58.4329°W. Sex: M; Preparation type: skin

CMNVA 47146. June 15, 1960. Collector/Observer: Ouellet, Henri [Goose
Bay] 53.322°N, 60.4269°W. Sex: M; Preparation type: skin

CMNVA 47147. June 15, 1960. Collector/Observer: MacKenzie, Duncan
[Goose Bay] 53.322°N, 60.4269°W. Sex: M; Preparation type: skin

Other Observations (Unverified)

Records from e-bird (accessed via Canadian Museum of Nature Bird Collections:
Bank Swallow Records) [Last accessed April 14, 2009]

August 7, 2003. Witless Bay. 47.2782°N, 52.8313°W
August 22, 2005 Cape Race Road. 46.6324°N, 53.1978°W
July 10, 2007. Goose Bay. 53.3283°N, 60.2775°W
July 23, 2007. Goose Bay. 53.3283°N, 60.2775°W
August 1, 2008. Goose Bay. 53.3283°N, 60.2775°W

Additional records for Labrador City. 52.9424°N, 66.9127°W:

- 2002 – 1 record for August 20
- 2003 – 4 records between May 17 and August 8
- 2004 – 4 records between July 27 and August 14
- 2006 – 6 records between May 30 and July 29
- 2007 – 3 records between July 10 and July 27
- 2008 – 4 records between July 8 and July 27

[The number of records and the span of dates strongly suggest a breeding population at Labrador City.]

Members of the Innu have often observed the species nesting in the hill where the bridge was built between Sheshatshiu and North West River, NL (V. Courtois, pers. comm.).

Bank swallows were observed nesting in the aeolian deposits on top of Salmon Point, Rocky Harbour in past years (J. Maunder, pers. comm.).

No Newfoundland Nest Records exist for the Bank Swallow (R. Batten, Provincial Museum, pers. comm.).

Table 1. Occurrence of Bank Swallows in Newfoundland and Labrador during the past 25 years (W. A. Montevicchi, Memorial University, unpublished data).

Day	Month	Year	Location	Observer	Count	Comments
3	June	1984	Oxen Pond, St. John's	H. Clase	unknown	
13	June	1984	Oxen Pond, St. John's	J. Wells	200	feeding
9	September	1984	Stephenville Crossing	B. Mactavish	unknown	
14	September	1984	St. Paul's	B. Mactavish	unknown	
16	May	1986	St. John's	R. Burrows	unknown	
16	May	1986	St. John's	R. Burrows, B. Mactavish	unknown	
14	June	1986	Wigeon Pond, Upper Ferry, Codroy Valley	B. Maybank	200	
2	August	1986	Rocky Harbour	J. Zickefoose	6	
3	August	1986	St. Paul's	R. Burrows	5+	
10	August	1986	St. Paul's	R. Burrows	26+	
14	June	1987	The Block, south of Searston	K. Moore, M. Pitcher	~5	entering nest holes; turf atop sea cliffs
14	June	1987	Grand Cordoy Barachois	K. Moore, M. Pitcher		several foraging
15	June	1987	Stephenville Crossing	K. Moore, M. Pitcher		several foraging
16	August	1987	Brunette Island	R. Etcheberry	2	
22	May	1988	Goobies Junction	R. Burrows	1	
29	May	1988	Mundy Pond, St. John's	B. Mactavish, J. Pratt, D. Lemon	unknown	
4	June	1988	Wigeon Pond, Upper Ferry, Codroy Valley	R. Burrows	2	
4	July	1988	Crabbes River	J. Pitocchelli	100s	
9	June	1989	Black Brook [locality uncertain]	K. Moore	unknown	
1	August	1989	St. Paul's Bay	R. Burrows	20	
2	August	1989	St. Paul's Bay	R. Burrows	20	
4	August	1989	St. Paul's Bay	R. Burrows	15	
6	August	1989	Cape Freels	R. Burrows	4+	
12	August	1989	Kelligrews	R. Burrows	2	
4	September	1989	Chance Cove Provincial Park	J. Wells, K. Knowles, B. Mactavish, J. Pratt	unknown	
9	September	1989	Cape Spear	B. Mactavish	unknown	
30	May	1990	Harpoon Brook, near Millertown	B. Mactavish	2	
5	June	1990	Codroy Valley	K. Knowles	25	

15	August	1990	L'Anse aux Meadows	P. Lehman	4	
16	August	1990	Parson's Pond	P. Lehman	20	
17	August	1990	Stephenville Crossing	P. Lehman	10	
18	August	1990	lower Codroy Valley	P. Lehman	120	
19	August	1990	lower Codroy Valley	P. Lehman	15	
26	May	1991	north side Grand Codroy	R. Burrows	unknown	
21	September	1991	Bay Bulls Rd, St. John's.	R. Burrows	unknown	
28	September	1991	Mundy Pond, St. John's	B. Mactavish	unknown	
21	June	1994	O'Regan's	L. Bateman	unknown	BBS
n/a	unknown	1994	Point Verde	F. Wood	unknown	2-3 active nests
30	September	1995	Ferryland	J. Pratt, C. Brown	unknown	
28	June	1996	Happy Valley - Goose Bay, Labrador	J. Thomas	unknown	BBS
7	July	1996	Anatalik Brook, Voisey's Bay, Labrador	Jacques Whitford (company)?	unknown	air survey
17	May	1997	Collier's Pond, Bonavista	J. Joy	2	
31	May	1997	Forest Pond, Goulds	K. Knowles	"handfuls"	
6	June	1997	Forest Pond, Goulds	T. Boland	6	
28	July	1997	Shallow Bay, GMNP	K. Butler	3	
28	July	1997	Western Brook Pond, GMNP	K. Butler	5	
26	September	1997	St. John's	K. Knowles	1	
mid-	May	1998	Robert Bond Park, Whitbourne	J. Pratt	2	
30	May	1998	Forest Pond, Goulds	J. Pratt		several
3	July	1998	just west of Gander	K. Butler	unknown	pit
mid-	October	1998	Sandy Beach, Elliston	unknown	unknown	internet
mid-	May	2000	St. John's	fide J. Pratt	unknown	
27	May	2000	St. John's	I. Stenhouse	unknown	
16	May	2004	Forest Pond, Goulds	B. Mactavish	unknown	

Table 2. Occurrence of Bank Swallows in Newfoundland and Labrador prior to the last 25 years (W. A. Montevecchi, Memorial University, unpublished data).

Day	Month	Year	Location	Observer	Count	Comments
14	August	1833	St. George's	J. J. Audubon	unknown	also August 15
n/a	n/a	1866-1868	Bay St. George	Reeks, 1969	unknown	said to be common in this area and further south, very rare near Cowhead
2	August	1950	Goose Bay, Labrador	G. W. North	2	Also, informed of nesting holes in banks of Hamilton [= Churchill] River and tributaries
23	May	1952	Swift Current	L. M. Tuck	unknown	
14	May	1953	Little Codroy	L. M. Tuck	unknown	
19	May	1953	Chapel Arm	L. M. Tuck	unknown	
20	May	1953	Goobies	L. M. Tuck	unknown	
15	May	1961	Spirity Cove, [south of] Port Saunders	H. Gould	1	flew through window
10	June	1968	near St. Andrew's	"C.A.B."	small colony	
12	May	1969	Doyles	J. Learning, J. E. Maunder	1	for several days
26	May	1969	Murray's Pond, [near] St. John's	H. J. Clase	unknown	
25	July	1969	island off New World Island	R. R. Riewe	1	
25	July	1969	Notre Dame Bay	J. Williams	1	
16	June	1971	Highlands, St. George's Bay	G. Ryan	approx. 80 birds seen in vicinity	Colony; approx. 136 nest holes; most holes seemed occupied; sand-clay banks about 40-50 ft. high near sea
16	June	1971	Highlands, St. George's Bay	G. Ryan		Colony; 91 nest holes
3,9	July	1972	North West Bank, unknown?	P. Hope	unknown	Nest in active dune

17	July	1973	Shallow Bay, Cow Head	D. Christie	unknown	9 active nests, 4 abandoned nests
31	July	1973	Shallow Bay, Cow Head	L. Brown	unknown	5 active nests, part of colony destroyed by collapsed bank
28	October	1973	Cape Spear	M. Parmenter	unknown	
25	May	1975	LaManche	J. Piatt, J. Wells	2	
n/a	July	1975	Piccadilly Head Provincial Park	M. Usher	unknown	
24	July	1975	Parson's Pond	R. Lamberton	80+	
26	June	1977	Point Verde	R. Burrows	2	pair
16, 17	August	1977	near LaManche	H. J. Clase	unknown	
20	August	1978	Cape St. Mary's	J. Piatt	300	
n/a	summer	1979	Point Verde	M. Parmenter	unknown	nest
early	June	1979	Newman Sound	R. Burrows	few	
10	July	1979	L'Anse aux Meadows	B. Mactavish	unknown	
1	October	1979	Glovertown	S. Tingley	2	gravel pit; birds summered at this location
2	June	1980	Stephenville Crossing	C. Brown, W. A. Montevecchi, J. Wells	100+	
3	June	1980	Doyles	C. Brown, W. A. Montevecchi, J. Wells	unknown	
3	June	1980	½ km N of Larkin Point, near St. Andrew's	C. Brown, W. A. Montevecchi, J. Wells	40	approx. 21 nest holes
11	June	1980	Codroy	I. Goudie	unknown	
29	July	1980	Traytown	R. Burrows	unknown	
5-10	August	1980	west coast	"O. C."	unknown	fairly spread out
31	August	1980	Stephenville Crossing	S. Tingley	4	last date seen
19	August	1981	St. Paul's	R. Burrows	80+	
12	June	1983	Parsons Pond	B. Mactavish	150	

Table 3. Occurrence of Bank Swallows in Saint-Pierre et Miquelon (France; W. A. Montevicchi, Memorial University, unpublished data; nf.birds website).

Day	Month	Year	Location	Observer	Count	Comments
12	June	1985	Langlade	R. Etcheberry		tiny colony; 8 nests
11	May	1986	St.-Pierre	R. Etcheberry, M. Derible	several	
13	May	1986	St.-Pierre	R. Etcheberry	unknown	
16	May	1986	St.-Pierre	M. Borotra	unknown	
21	May	1986	St.-Pierre	M. Borotra	unknown	
21	May	1986	St.-Pierre	R. Etcheberry	unknown	
23	June	1986	s. Isthmus of Miquelon	R. Etcheberry		13 nests, burrows
22	July	1987	Langlade	R. Etcheberry	7 pairs, fledging young	10 visible burrows
19	May	1988	St.-Pierre	R. Etcheberry	1	
30	May	1988	Isthmus Miquelon		2	near usual breeding ground
10	August	1988	Isthmus of Miquelon	R. Etcheberry	unknown	fledging young
n/a	summer	1988	s. Isthmus of Miquelon	R. Etcheberry		~ 8 nests
24	August	1988	Langlade	R. Etcheberry	unknown	
11	July	1992	Barachois, Miquelon	R. Etcheberry	pair; fledging young	1 nest
25	May	1998	Isthmus of Miquelon	R. Etcheberry	2	
31	May	1998	near village of Miquelon	J.C. Herbert	4	

Table 4. Occurrence of Bank Swallows in Newfoundland and Labrador from nf.birds.

Day	Month	Year	Location	Observer	Count	Comments
23	May	1998	Forest Pond, Goulds	K. Knowles	2	
24	May	1998	Markland	R. O'Reilly	1	
3	July	1998	w. Gander	J. K. Butler	1	
29	July	1998	Seal Cove	B. Windsor	approx. 30	
9	October	1998	Elliston	J. Joy	4	
11	May	1999	Markland	R. O'Reilly	1	
13	May	1999	Forest Pond, Goulds	M. Parmenter	1	

14	May	1999	Forest Pond, Goulds	T. Boland	1	
26	May	1999	Forest Pond, Goulds	unknown	2	
30	May	1999	Kippens	B. Windsor	16	
26	June	1999	Noel's Pond, near Stephenville	B. Windsor	approx. 25	nesting
20	September	1999	The Drook, Cape Race Road	K. Knowles	1	
7	May	2000	Kenny's Pond, St. John's	unknown	1	
22	May	2000	Goulds	B. Mactavish	2	
7	August	2000	Kippens	C. Smith	unknown	large colony
21	October	2000	Outer Cove	T. Boland	1	
19	June	2001	Bay St. George	B. Windsor	approx. 18	nesting
19	July	2001	Shoal Point, Port au Port Peninsula	B. Windsor	approx. 10-15	
26	May	2002	Kippens	Bill Windsor	2	
6	June	2002	Forest Pond, Goulds	M. Parmenter	1	
8	June	2002	Forest Pond, Goulds	T. Boland	1	
2	July	2002	St. Andrew's	J. K. Butler	unknown	large colony
9	April	2003	Long Pond, St. John's	D. Hilbers	2	
19	May	2003	St. Stephens	J. Wells	1	
19	May	2003	St. Shotts	J. Wells	2	
24	May	2003	Kippens	B. Windsor	1	
5	June	2003	Long Pond, St. John's	A. Hughes	2	
10	June	2003	Forest Pond, Goulds	D. Brown	1	
11	June	2003	Forest Pond, Goulds	D. Brown	1	
14	June	2003	Kippens	B. Windsor	unknown	
26	August	2003	Quidi Vidi Lake, St. John's	D. Brown	1	
31	August	2003	Cape Bonavista	J. Selnø	5	
16	May	2004	Forest Pond, Goulds	T. Boland	1	
23	May	2004	Long Pond, St. John's	J. Clarke	1	
24	May	2004	Forest Pond, Goulds	D. Brown	1	
27	May	2004	Petty Harbour	J. Clarke	1	
27	May	2004	Cape Spear	J. Clarke	1	
31	May	2004	Long Pond, St. John's	J. Clarke	1	

1	June	2004	Long Pond, St. John's	J. Clarke	1	
6	June	2004	Forest Pond, Goulds	J. Clarke	1	
12	September	2004	Mundy Pond, St. John's	T. Boland	2	
4	June	2005	Blackmarsh Road, St. John's	T. Boland	3	
20	August	2005	Cape Race	J. Wells	1	
28	October	2005	Long Beach, Cape Race Road	K. Knowles	1	
29	October	2005	Long Beach, Cape Race Road	T. Boland	1	
29	October	2005	Bear Cove	M. Parmenter	1	
1	November	2005	Watern Cove, Cape Race Road	D. Shepherd	1	
9	May	2006	Trepassey	D. Shepherd	1	
14	May	2006	Forest Pond, Goulds	T. Boland	1	
27	May	2006	Loch Lomond Pond	K. Miller	unknown	
28	May	2006	Long Pond, St. John's	J. Clarke	1	
29	May	2006	Maberly	J. Joy	1	
30	May	2006	Forest Pond, Goulds	D. Fifield	unknown	
3	June	2006	NE. St. John's	G. Ryan	2	
27	May	2007	Long Pond, St. John's	D. Brown	1	
2	August	2007	Loch Lomond	M. Parmenter	unknown	
2	September	2007	St. Shott's	D. Brown	unknown	
20	May	2008	Trepassey	D. Shepherd	7	
23	May	2008	Forest Pond, Goulds	T. Boland	unknown	
31	May	2008	Shoal Point, Port au Port Peninsula	L. Giroux	unknown	
1	June	2008		D. Whitaker	approx. 40	
1	June	2008		M. Parmenter	unknown	
3	June	2008		L. Giroux	unknown	
8	July	2008		G. Parsons	approx. 18	nesting
26	July	2008		G. Parsons	approx. 28	nesting

NOTE: All records retrieved from the group nf.birds, at <http://groups.google.ca/group/nf.birds/>

Recent Search Effort (areas searched within the last 25 years with estimate of effort)

This province has been searched by ornithologists and birders for almost two centuries (for a comprehensive account see: Montevicchi and Tuck, 1987), and interest in birds remains high. Birding groups across the Island, Christmas bird counts, breeding bird surveys, the nf.birds Internet discussion group, birders hotlines, and other sources of up-to-date information show the degree of interest that birds continue to inspire within the Province. The lack of records for Bank Swallows in Newfoundland and Labrador is not due to a lack of effort.

Potential Sites Unexplored

Given the remote nesting habits of the Bank Swallow (along ocean- river-side banks and cliffs), there are probably a number of unexplored sites. The number of localities where birds have been observed is significantly greater than the number of localities where nesting colonies have been found.