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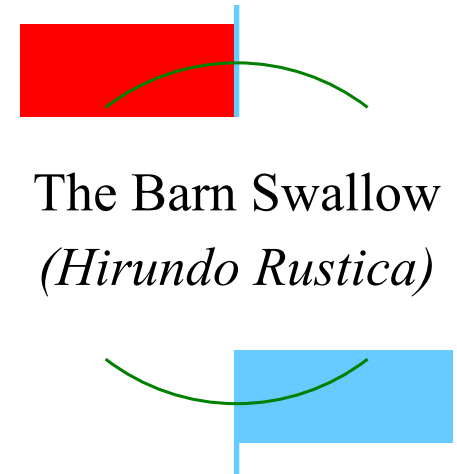
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A swallow bird is shown in flight against a cloudy sky. The bird has a dark blue head and back, a white underbelly, and a long, deeply forked tail. Its wings are spread wide, showing a light-colored underside. The bird is captured in a side profile, flying towards the left.

By: *STUDENT NAME*

Keyboarding 2

9/30/11



Swallows

Swallows are different than most birds. These blue birds are different because they are the only kind of bird with the split-tail. There are many kinds of swallows, the biggest being the Purple Martin, and the smallest being the Cliff Swallow, the Northern Rough-Winged Swallow, the Tree Swallow, and the Bank Swallow. The Purple Martin has a length of about 8 inches and the others have a length of about 5-6 inches. In the narrative below I will tell you some facts about the swallow.



Swallows are native to all biogeographic regions except Antarctica and Australia. This means that they are native to five of the seven continents. They are native to Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, and South America. Swallows aren't native to Antarctica because of the extreme cold.

One thing that is distinct about the swallow is its split tail. The split tail is forked like a snake's tongue. Usually, males have tails that are more forked than females. That is one way to tell the difference between female and male swallows. Males are also larger than females.

Swallows can fly pretty fast. When they migrate they fly as much as 600 miles a day. They also eat while they fly, so that's a pretty efficient way of traveling. Swallows will fly as much as 1.2 km in search of food. In Europe, most barn swallows stay within 500 m of their nests.

Swallows are migrant birds. This means they breed in northern areas usually between May and August. Then, during the fall they migrate south to escape the harsh cold of winter. In North America, swallows breed from

Alaska to the East coast of Canada and from California to Florida. Swallows then spend their winters in Mexico, Central America, and South America. Eurasian swallows migrate to southern Asia, Indonesia, and Micronesia. Swallows mostly migrate in large groups.

Swallows eat only insects but they do eat spiders which are arachnids. Swallows usually eat house flies, horse flies, beetles, wasps, bees, and winged ants. When there is bad weather, swallows will land and try to find spiders, snails, berries, or seeds to eat. When flying some swallows will fly across a water source and skim the surface to get water to drink on the flight. But the swallow is prey to the American kestrel, Sharp-Shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Eastern Screech Owl, Gulls, Common Grackles, Boat-Tailed Grackles, Brown Rats, Squirrels, Weasels, Raccoons, Bobcats, Domestic Cats, Snakes, Bullfrogs, Fish, and Fire Ants.