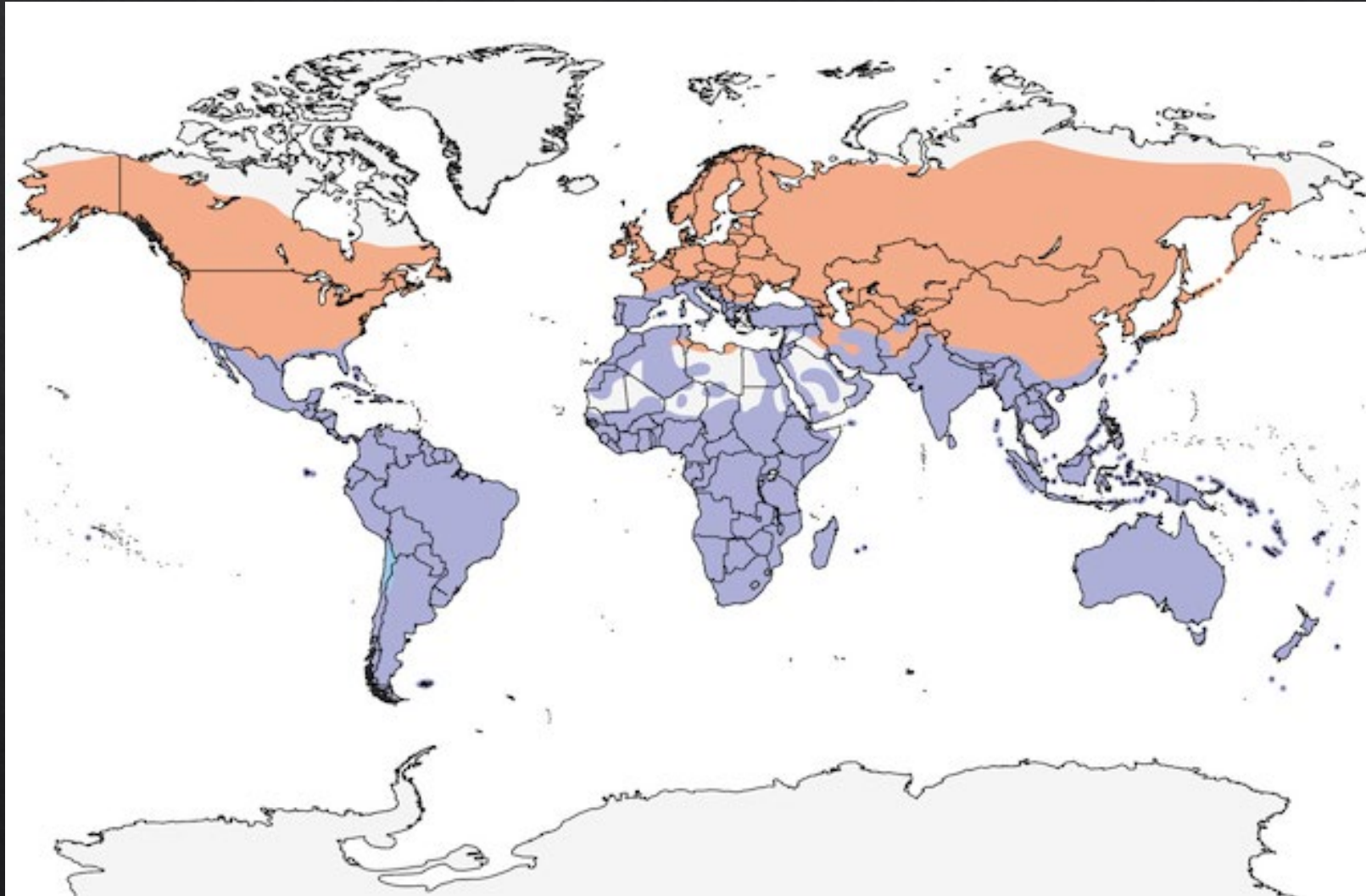


Swallows



Order: Passeriformes

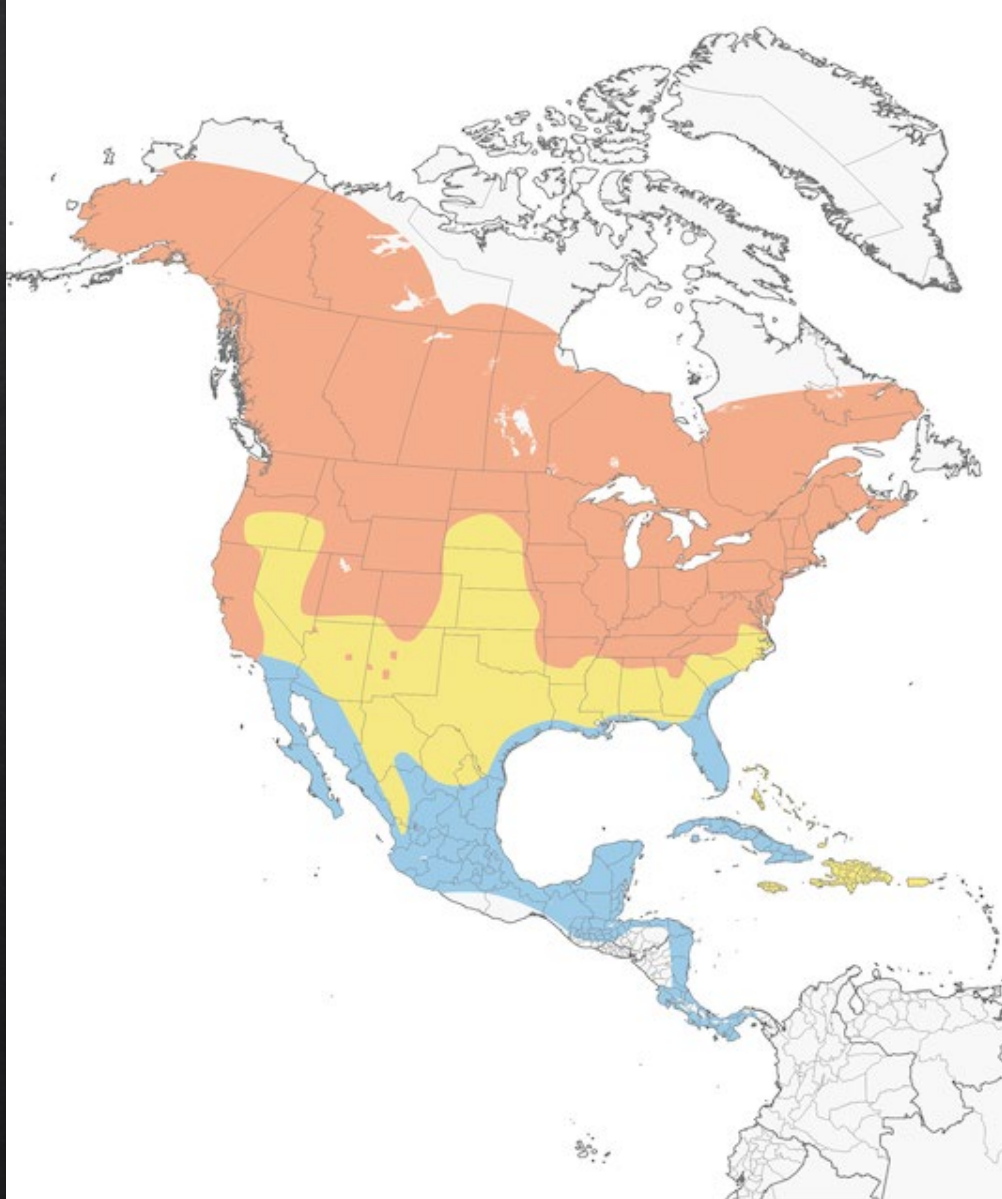
Family: Hirundinidae— 19 genera, 86 species worldwide, 8 species regular in ABA area



Tree Swallow



Tree Swallow



- *Tachycineta bicolor*
- Nests in tree cavities, bluebird boxes
- Winters along southern coasts
- Fields, marshes, swamps, coastal estuaries



- High clear two-note whistles, liquid chirping and twittering

Tree Swallow



- Nests in tree cavities

Tree Swallow



Adult

- Large and compact
- Glossy blue-green back
- Entirely bright white below
- Sharp contrast between dark cheek and white throat

Tree Swallow



Tree Swallow



- Broad wings, notched tail
- Entirely brilliant white below
- Sharp contrast between face and throat

Tree Swallow



- All dark above, including rump

Tree Swallow

Immature

- Often shows shadowy gray breast band



Tree Swallow



- Note indistinct gray breast band

Tree Swallow

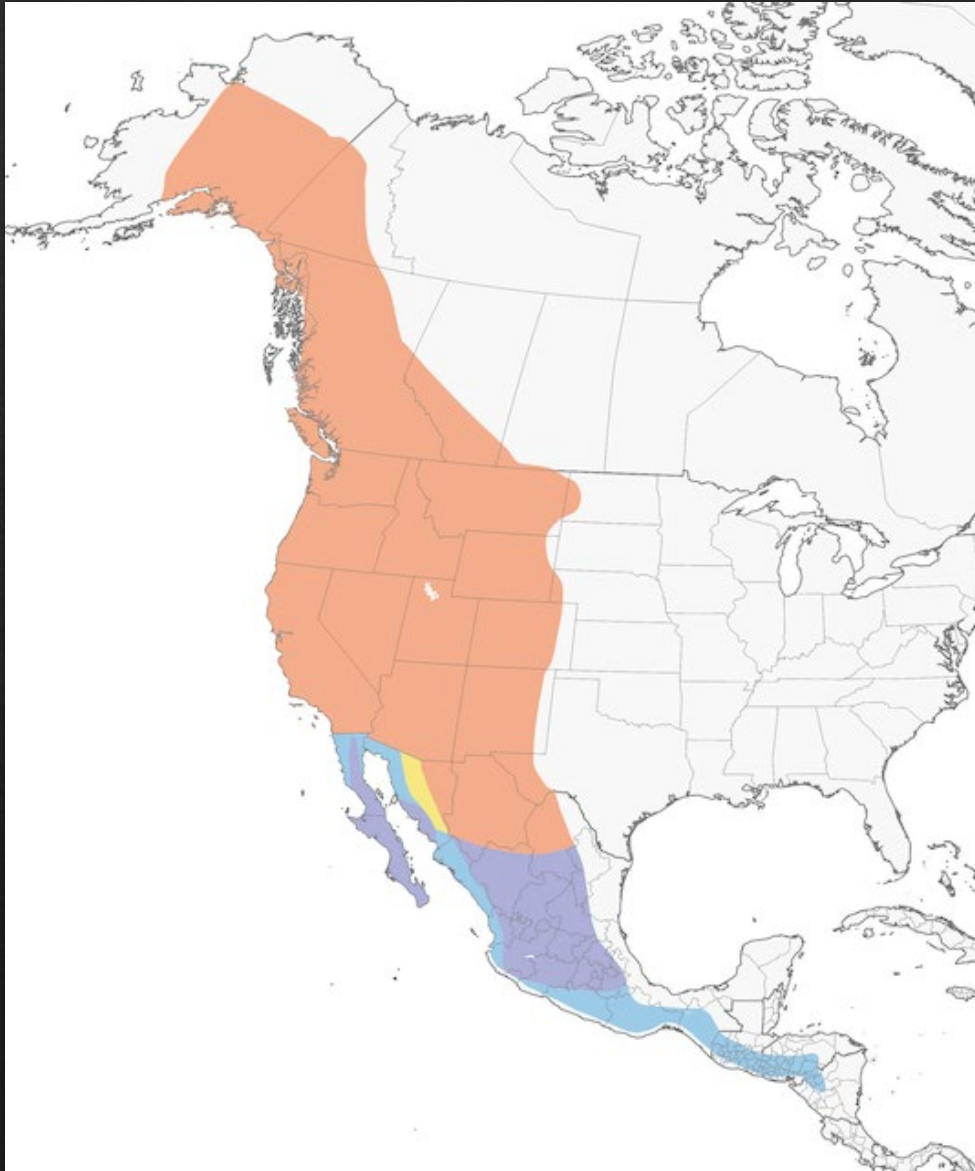


- Some white at base of tail, less prominent than Violet-green

Violet-green Swallow



Violet-green Swallow



- *Tachycineta thalassina*
- Breeds in montane and canyon forests, especially coniferous



- Similar to Tree but higher, drier, and faster

Violet-green Swallow

Adult

- Emerald green back
- Violet rump in good light
- White face, white above eye
- Wings project well past short tail



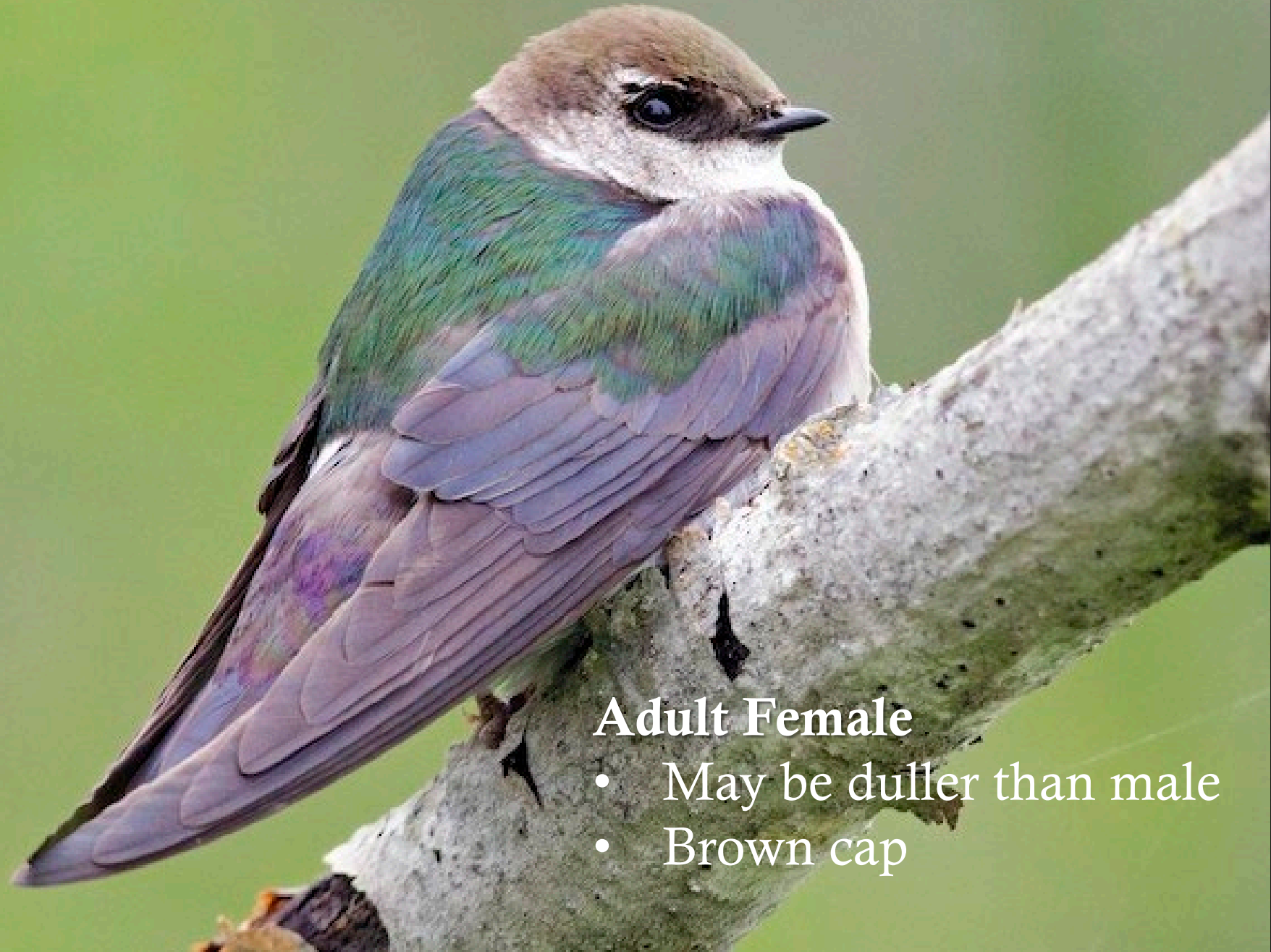
Violet-green Swallow

Adult

- Brilliant white below
- Lacks contrast between cheek and throat
- Eye is visible
- Smaller than Tree in direct comparison



Violet-green Swallow



Adult Female

- May be duller than male
- Brown cap

Violet-green Swallow



Immature

- Dusky face with indistinct border
- White saddlebags more prominent than imm. Tree

Violet-green Swallow



- White saddlebags
- Long wings and short tail
- Tail narrow at base
- Erratic, stiff flight recalls swifts

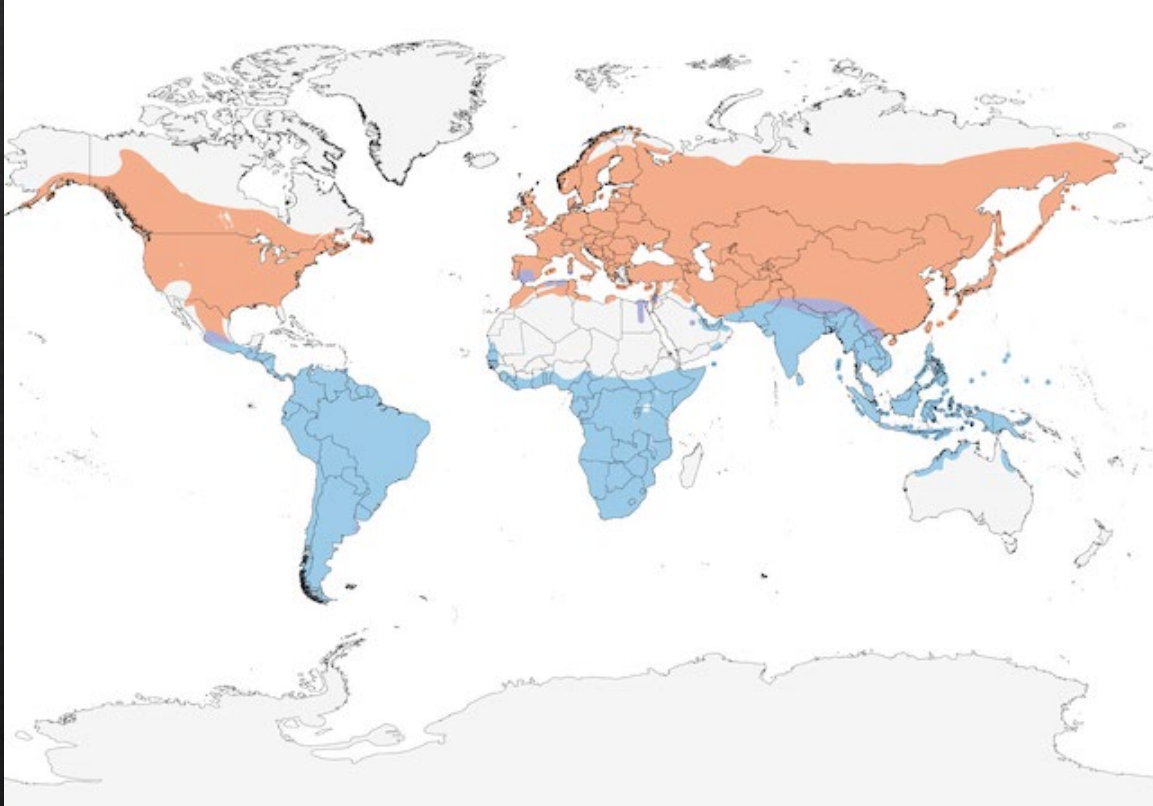
Tree and Violet-green



Barn Swallow



Barn Swallow



- *Hirundo rustica*
- Breeds on every continent except Antarctica
- Winters south of US
- Widespread in towns, agricultural areas; often feeds over lakes and ponds



- Musical mutterings, churrings, squeeks with occasional rattle

Barn Swallow



- Long slender body
- Long forked tail
- Blue-black above
- Orange to whitish below with rusty throat

Barn Swallow

- Underparts variable



Barn Swallow

- Very long narrow wings
- Deeply forked tail with white band
- Looks very dark at a distance



Barn Swallow

- Bicolored underwings
- Smooth fluid flight with quick turns and dives
- Rarely glides
- Often hunts low over ponds or fields

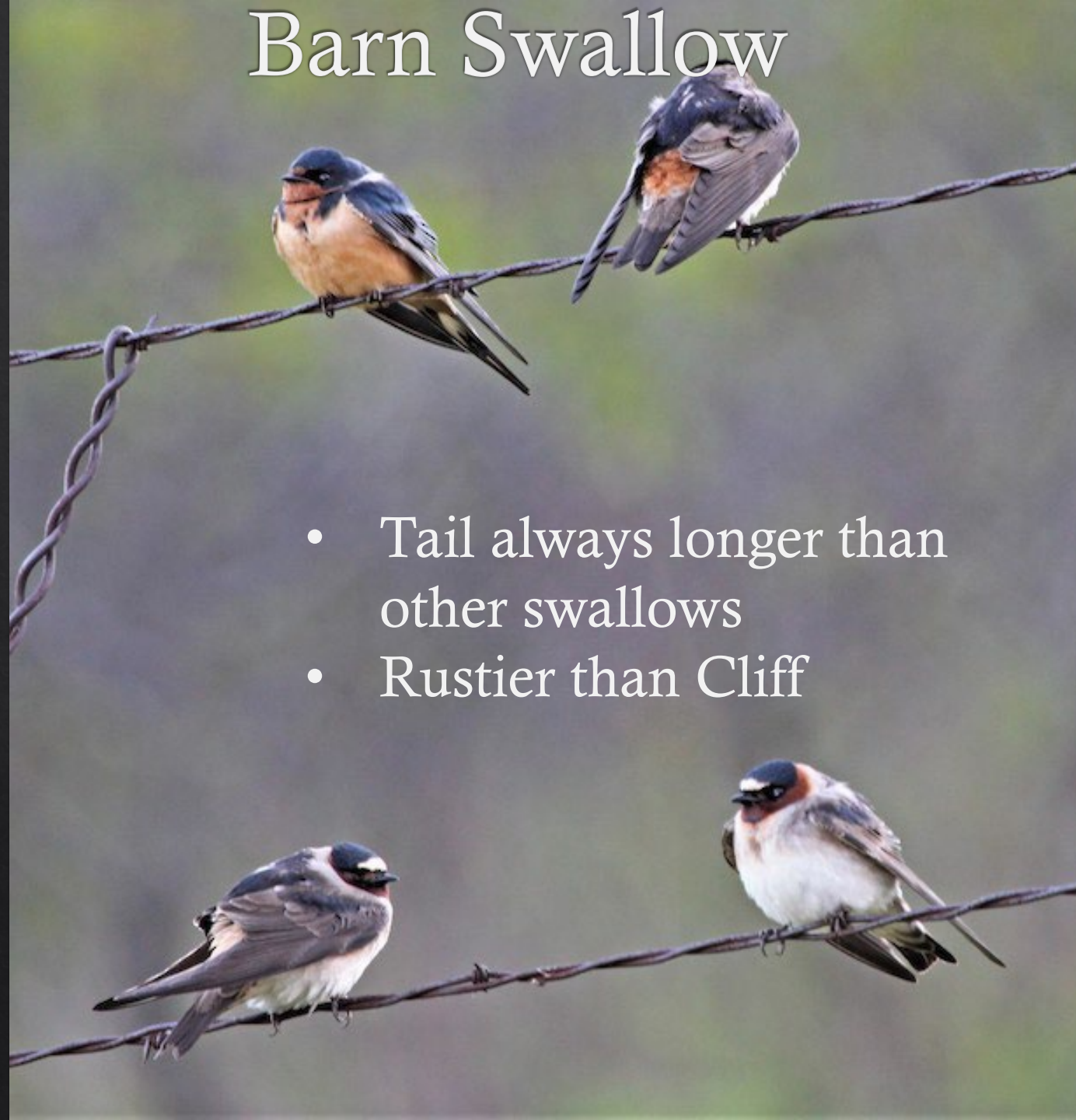


Barn Swallow



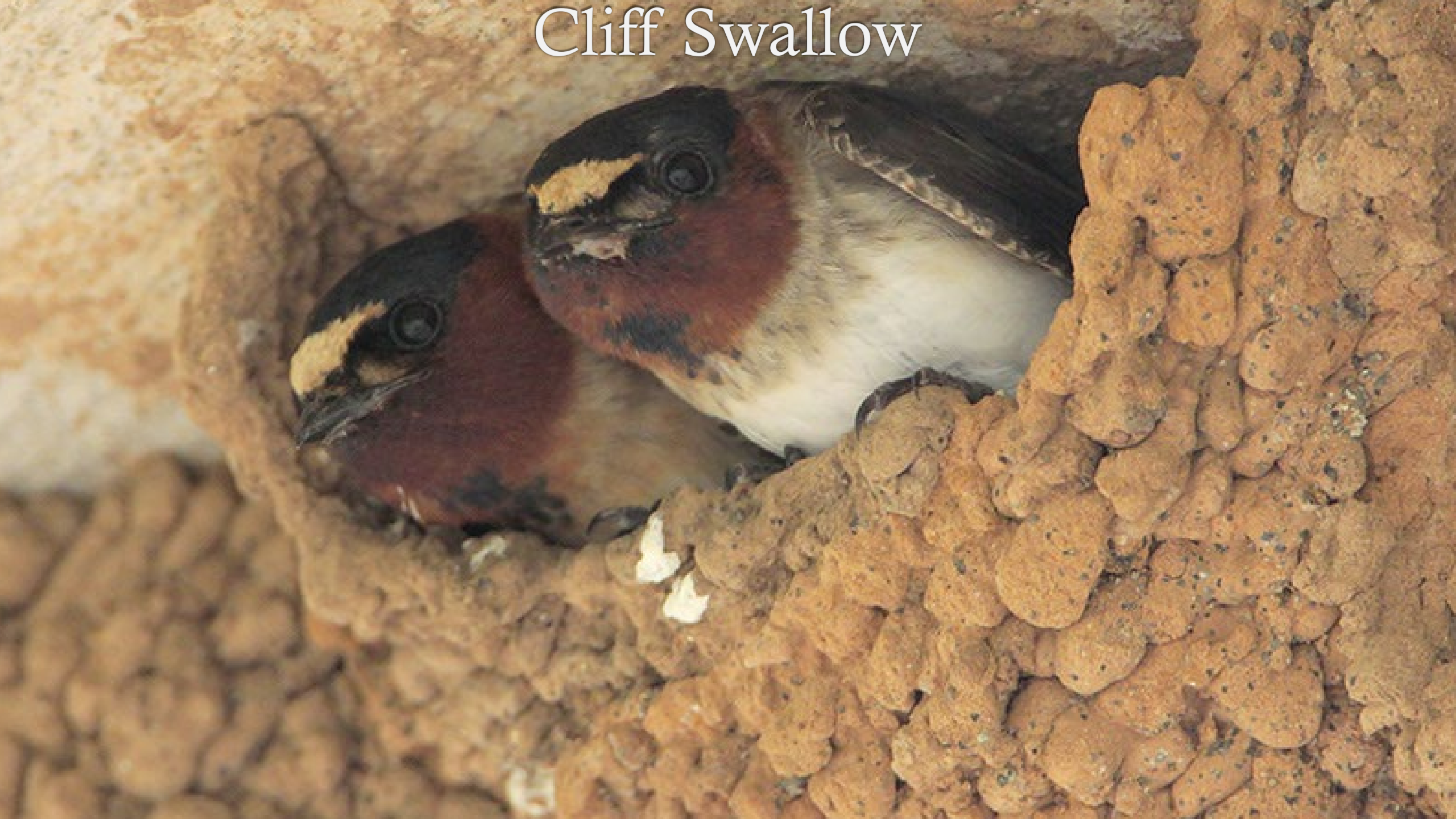
- Young birds may lack deeply forked tail

Barn Swallow

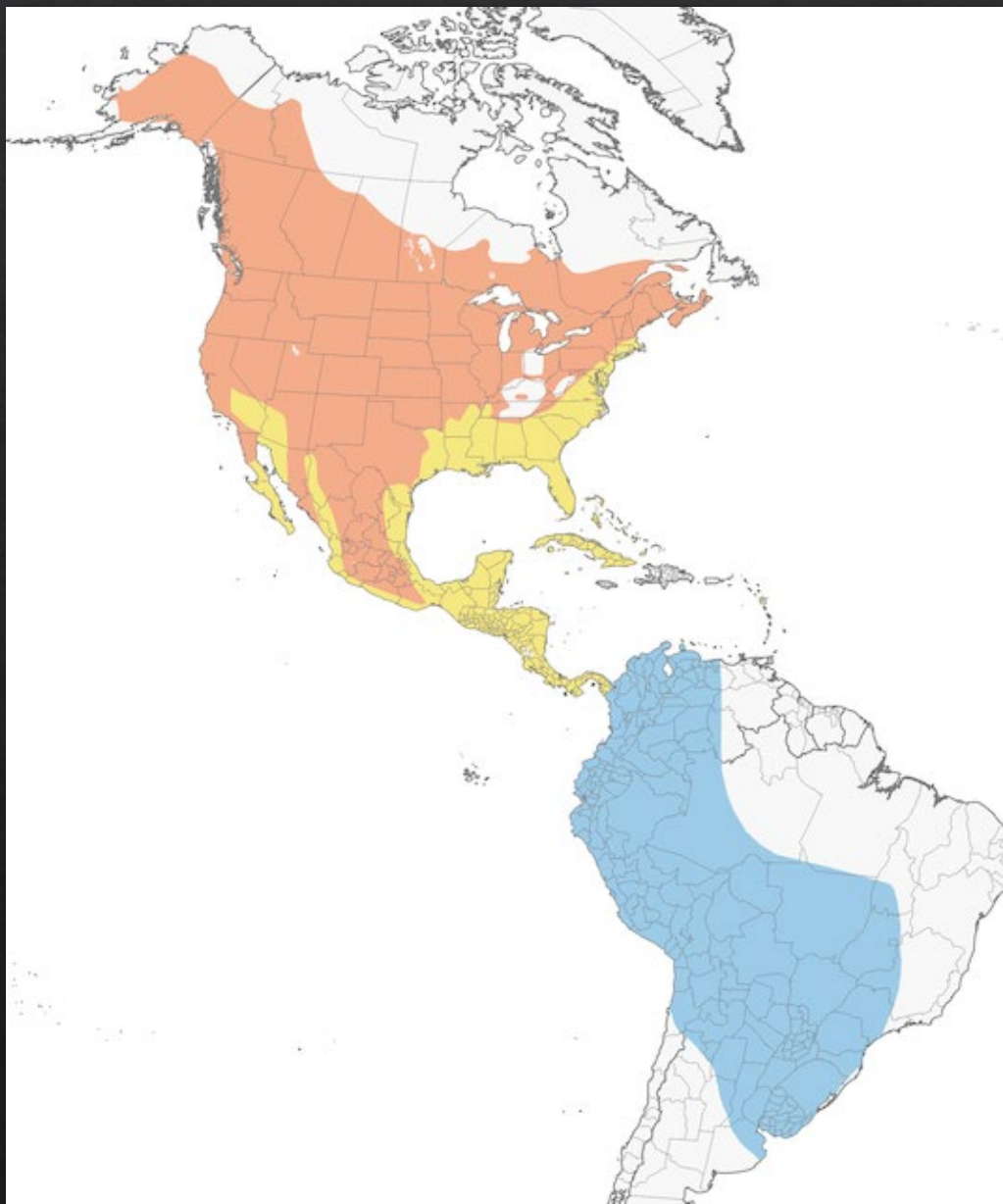


- Tail always longer than other swallows
- Rustier than Cliff

Cliff Swallow



Cliff Swallow



- *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
- Breeds on cliffs, bridges, other human structures
- Winters in South America



- Drawn out creaking and rattling sounds, shorter and simpler than Barn

Cliff Swallow

- Builds gourd-style mud nests under bridges

Cliff Swallow

Adult

- Stocky with short square tail
- Buffy rump and collar
- Sharply defined dark throat
- Whitish forehead



Cliff Swallow

- Stocky body, broad wings with rounded contours



- High contrast
- Dark above with buffy rump and collar
- Sharply defined dark throat
- Whitish “headlamp”

Cliff Swallow

- Dark underwing and tail contrasts with pale body
- Sharply defined dark throat, hooded look
- Strong flier with fluttery wingbeats
- Glides frequently



Cliff Swallow



Immature

- Highly variable!
- Dark throat and forehead, often with white speckling
- Dark auriculars

Cliff Swallow



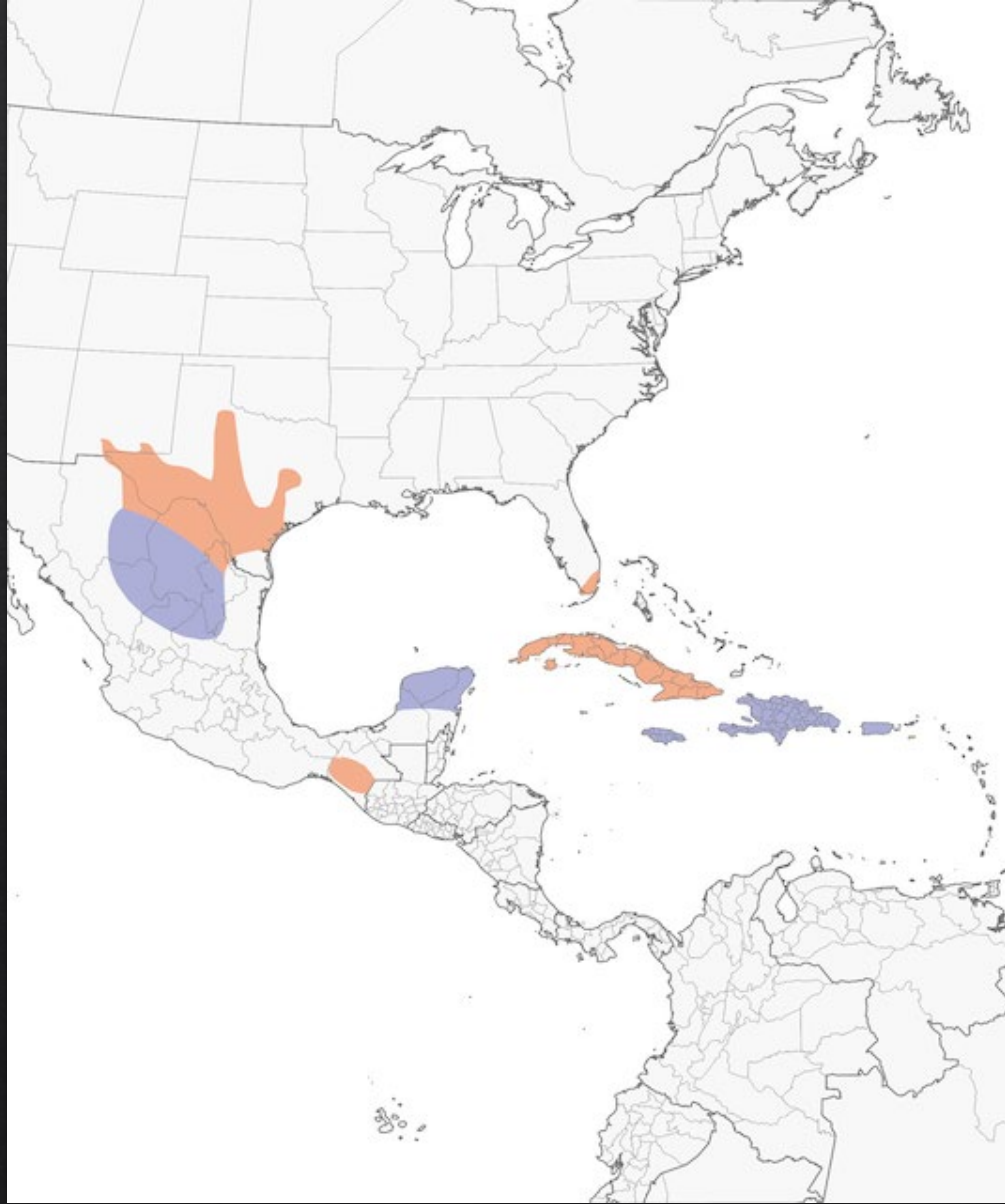
Immature

- Highly variable!
- Pale rump

Cave Swallow



Cave Swallow



- *Petrochelidon fulva*
- Breeds in caves, bridges, other human structures
- Winters in Mexico and Caribbean



- Song “like muffled Barn Swallow,” sweeter than Cliff

Cave Swallow



Adult

- Buffy orange throat, not sharply defined
- Dark chestnut forehead
- “Capped” look

Cave Swallow



- Buffy orange rump and collar
- “Capped” look

Cave Swallow

- Lower contrast than Cliff
- Less contrast between underwings and body
- Lacks sharply defined dark throat
- Capped rather than hooded



- Flight similar to Cliff, glides less

Cave Swallow

Immature

- Highly variable!
- Pale throat and cheeks
- May have buffy forehead



Cave Swallow



Immature

- Highly variable!
- Pale throat and cheeks, lacks white speckling

Cliff and Cave



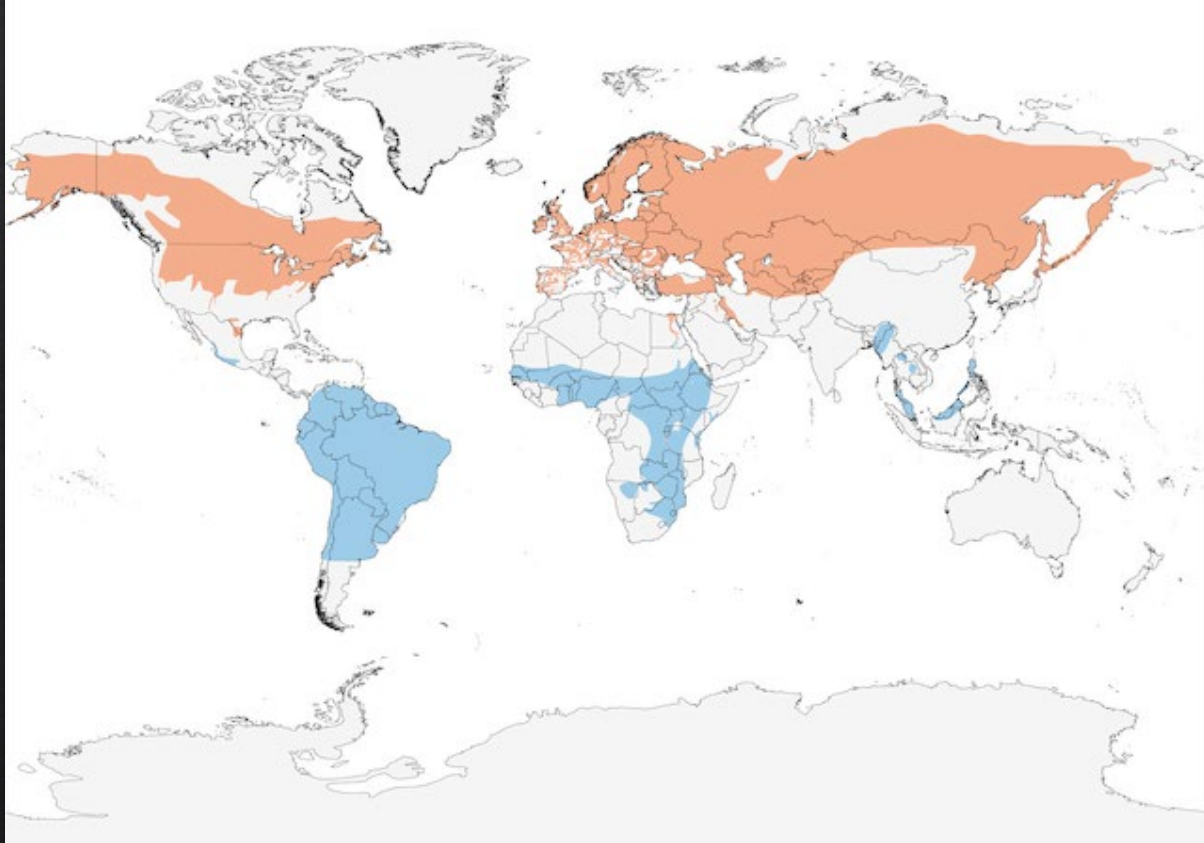
Cliff and Cave



Bank Swallow



Bank Swallow

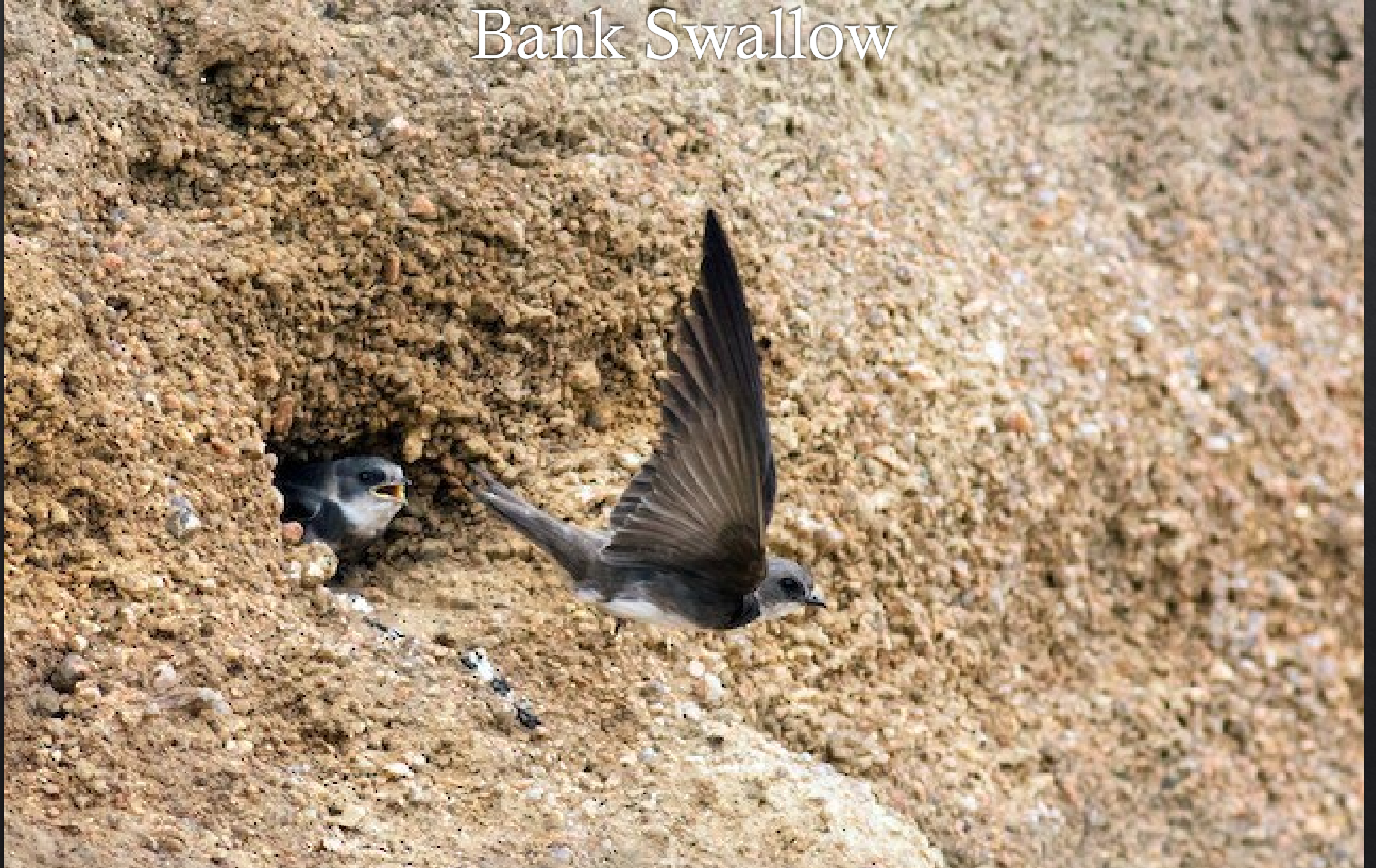


- *Riparia riparia*
- Breeds across Holarctic
- Winters south of US
- Nests in excavated tunnels in riverbanks, excavations



- Buzzy, unmusical “brrrrrrr”. Higher pitched and more varied than Rough-winged

Bank Swallow



Bank Swallow



- Small and slender
- Long slender tail with fork
- Crisp brown breastband with contrasting throat

Bank Swallow



- Brown above with paler rump and lower back
- White wraps around auriculars
- Trim body, long notched tail

Bank Swallow



- Brown breast band sets off white throat and belly
- Very quick, downward flicking wingbeats
- Steep climbs and descending swoops

Bank Swallow

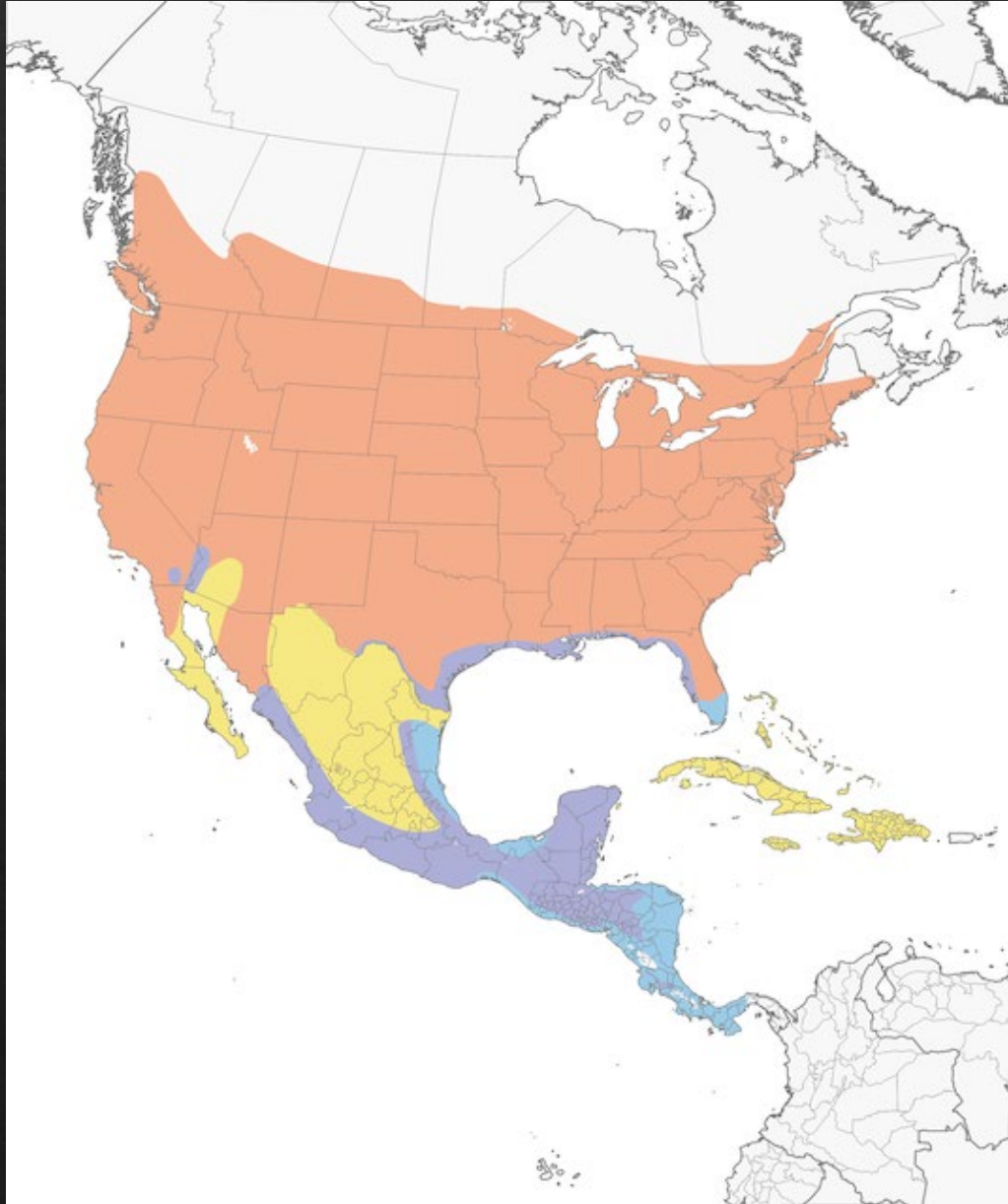


- Smallest swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow



Northern Rough-winged Swallow



- *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
- Nests in burrows on steep banks, crevices in structures
- Some winter along Gulf coast, most in Mexico and Central America



- Short, rising burry notes

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

- Drab overall
- Plain brown above
- Dusky throat
- Dirty white below



Northern Rough-winged Swallow



- Drab overall
- Low contrast
- Round contours

Northern Rough-winged Swallow



- Plain brown above
- Round contours
- Broad and blunt wings

Northern Rough-winged Swallow



- Dirty white below with dusky chest
- Broad wings
- Smooth, deliberate flight

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

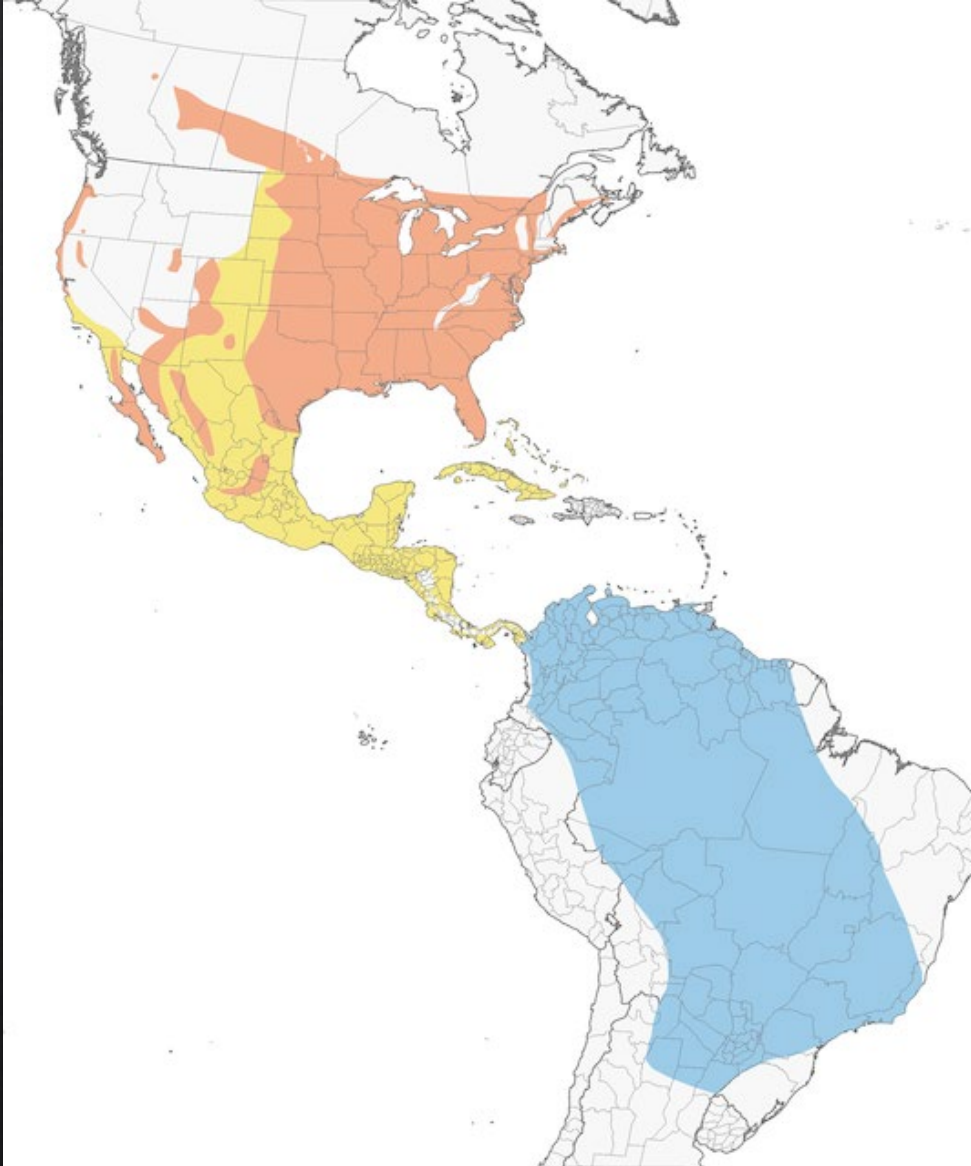


- Juveniles have cinnamon wing bars

Purple Martin



Purple Martin



- *Progne subis*
- Breeds mostly in martin houses around towns, rural areas
- Winters in South America



- Rich, musical, liquid gurgling

Purple Martin

- Big and sturdy, broad chested
- Large head, peaked with sloped forehead
- Males glossy black-purple



Purple Martin

- Females and imm. males bluish gray above, dirty gray below
- Darker on chest
- Pale collar



Purple Martin



- Juveniles brownish
- Fine streaks below

Purple Martin

- Large and broadly proportioned
- Long tapered wings
- Projecting head
- Falcon-like silhouette

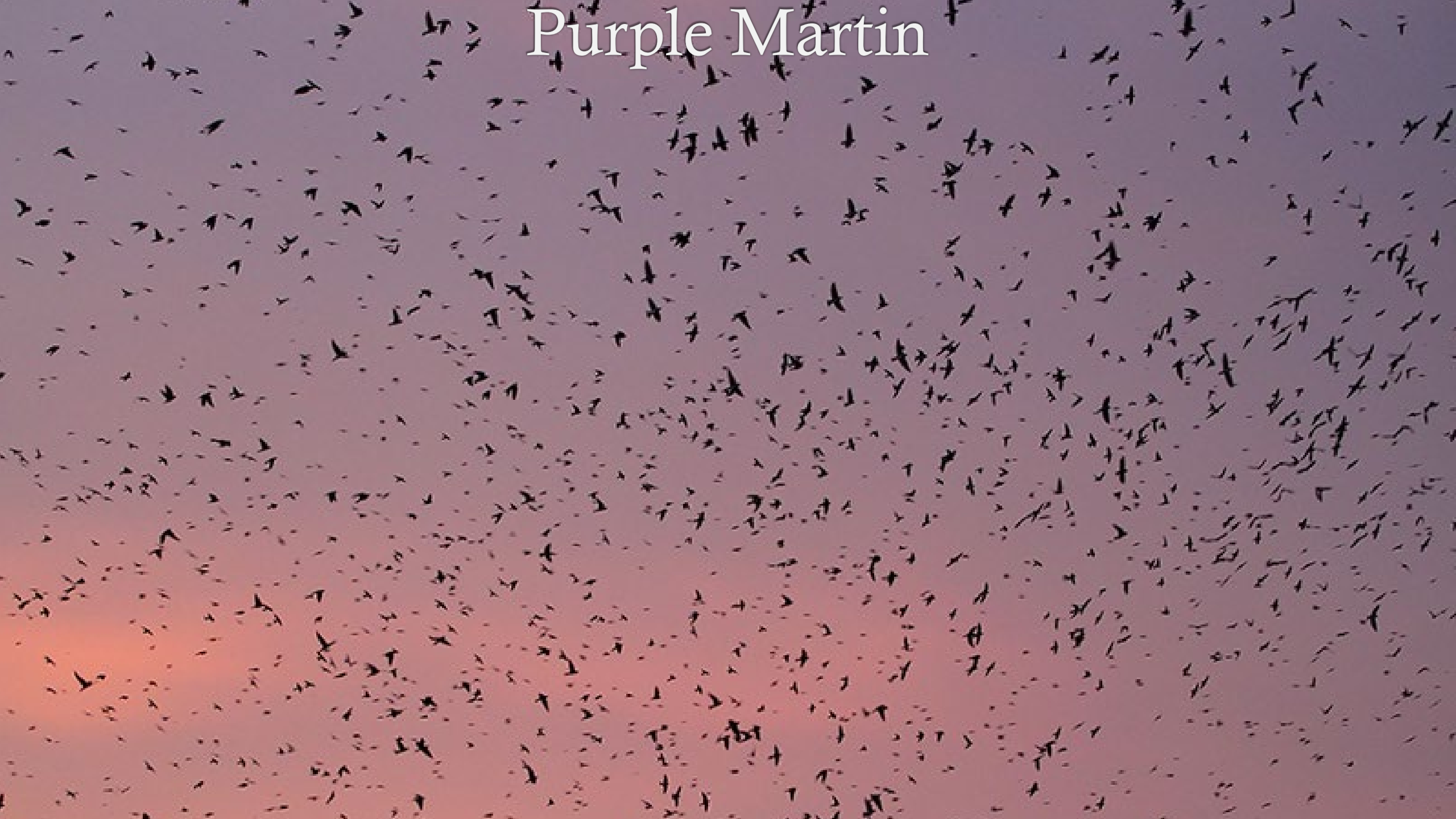


Purple Martin

- Females grayish undersides contrast with dark underwings and breast
- Flight is direct and powerful
- Glides frequently
- Often hunts at high altitudes



Purple Martin

































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