



## Media Release

*For immediate release*

February 28, 2024

Prince Edward County

The work of members and supporters of Prince Edward County Field Naturalists (PECFN), Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) and South Shore Joint Initiative (SSJI) has resulted in a commitment by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to erect a Barn Swallow alternate nesting structure at the site of the former Barn Swallow nesting shed at Point Traverse by March 31. The new alternate nesting structure will follow the design of those proven to be effective in other locations in Ontario.

Barn Swallows are a species at risk listed as Threatened federally and Special Concern in Ontario. “Adults show fidelity to breeding sites by commonly reusing the same nest. The number of old nests at a site at the start of the breeding season is also thought to serve as an important cue for young birds selecting their initial breeding location”.<sup>1</sup> At least seven pairs of Barn Swallows traditionally have used the Point Traverse shed.

“Although we were unable to save the nesting shed, our work had a positive result with the commitment from CWS to build the alternate nesting structure immediately” commented SSJI vice president Cheryl Anderson. “The work of our three organizations over the weekend raised awareness about these iconic aerial insectivores. Now more people will appreciate their importance to biodiversity and the web of life. Thank you to everyone who wrote and called Minister Guilbeault.”

The Canadian Wildlife Service removed the Barn Swallow nesting shed on February 27 as part of plans to remove all the remaining buildings of the fishing village that existed at Point Traverse since the nineteenth century.

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South Shore Joint Initiative is a volunteer run, non-profit registered Canadian charity with a mission to educate and advocate for the protection, preservation and restoration of South Shore lands and waters in Prince Edward County, where together biodiversity and people thrive.

The Prince Edward County Field Naturalists provide an educational forum dedicated to the study, promotion, appreciation and conservation of the flora and fauna within Prince Edward County. Our goals are to encourage the enjoyment of nature, promote public interest in the appreciation and study of nature, and to advance the conservation and preservation of Prince Edward County’s natural resources, habitat and environment.

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory is a conservation organization that studies, monitors, and reports on the migration, breeding patterns and ecosystems of birds throughout Prince Edward County. Our work protects birds and their habitat through research, advocacy, and education.

1. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/barn-swallow-governmhttps://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-assessments-status-reports/barn-swallow-2021.html>ent-response-statement

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