

## Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

When to look:  
*August to March*

Metallic blue-black on top

Eyes and bill are black

A white band or  
row of spots on the  
long tail feathers

Its forehead, throat,  
and upper breast  
are rust in colour

Light to dark grey on  
its breast and belly,  
grey legs and feet

A distinctive deeply  
forked tail

### *Similar species:*

Barn Swallows have a dark blue to black breast-band across its throat, separating its red chin from white chest/underparts.

Other swallows lack the rust-coloured forehead and throat. The White-backed Swallow has a pale-grey head, and the Red-rumped Swallow has a red rump and streaked, chestnut underparts.

Swifts are larger with longer and more-curved wings.

Fairy or Tree Martin have shorter, squarer tails and white coloured rump.

*Images courtesy of Alan Collins*