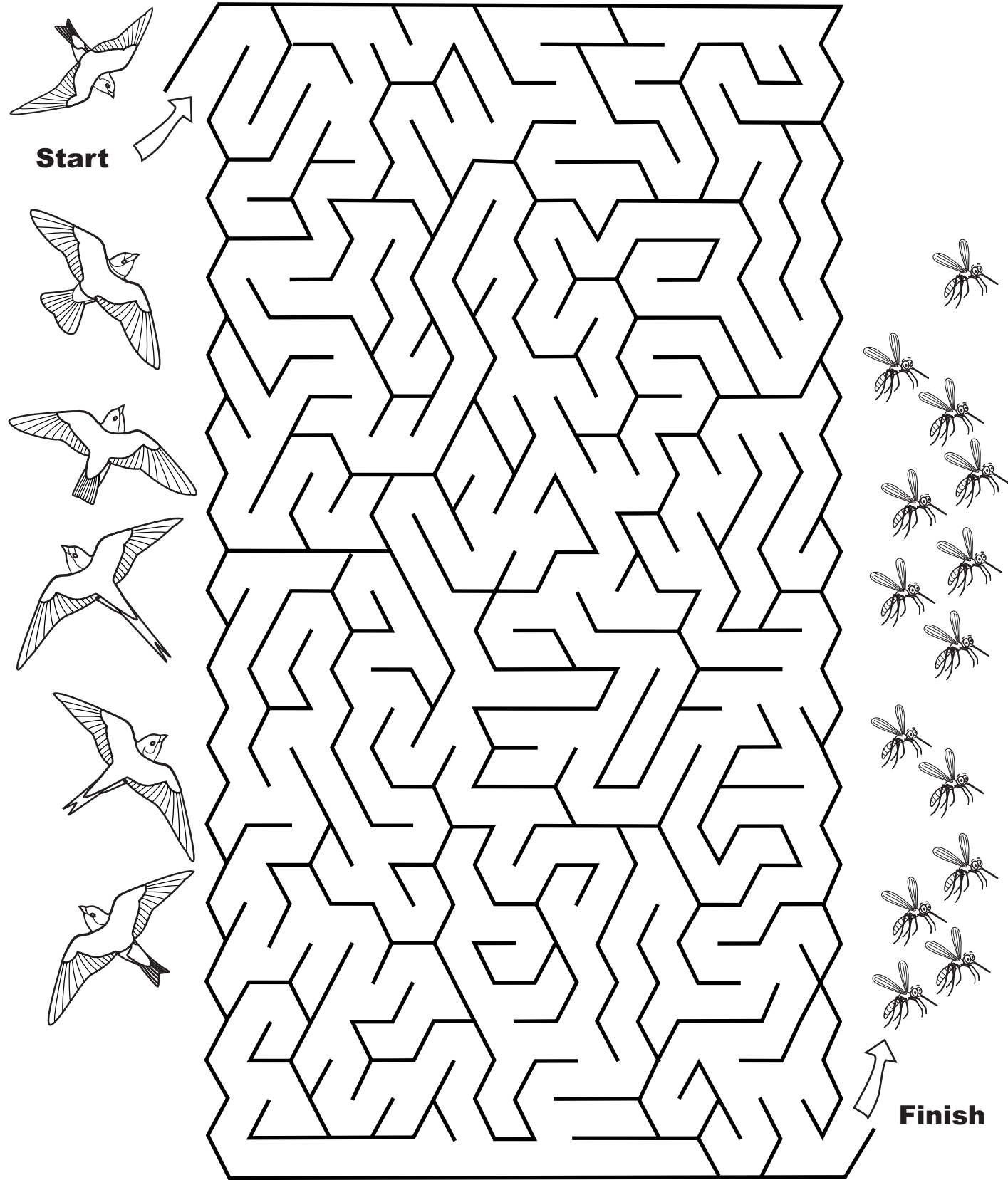


Help the swallows catch the mosquitoes!

There are three ways to go through the maze. Can you find all three?



Where Birds Thrive, People Prosper.

Answer to question on page 3: 10 swallows could consume about 600 insects in one hour.

Our Swallow Neighbors

www.swnmaudubon.org.



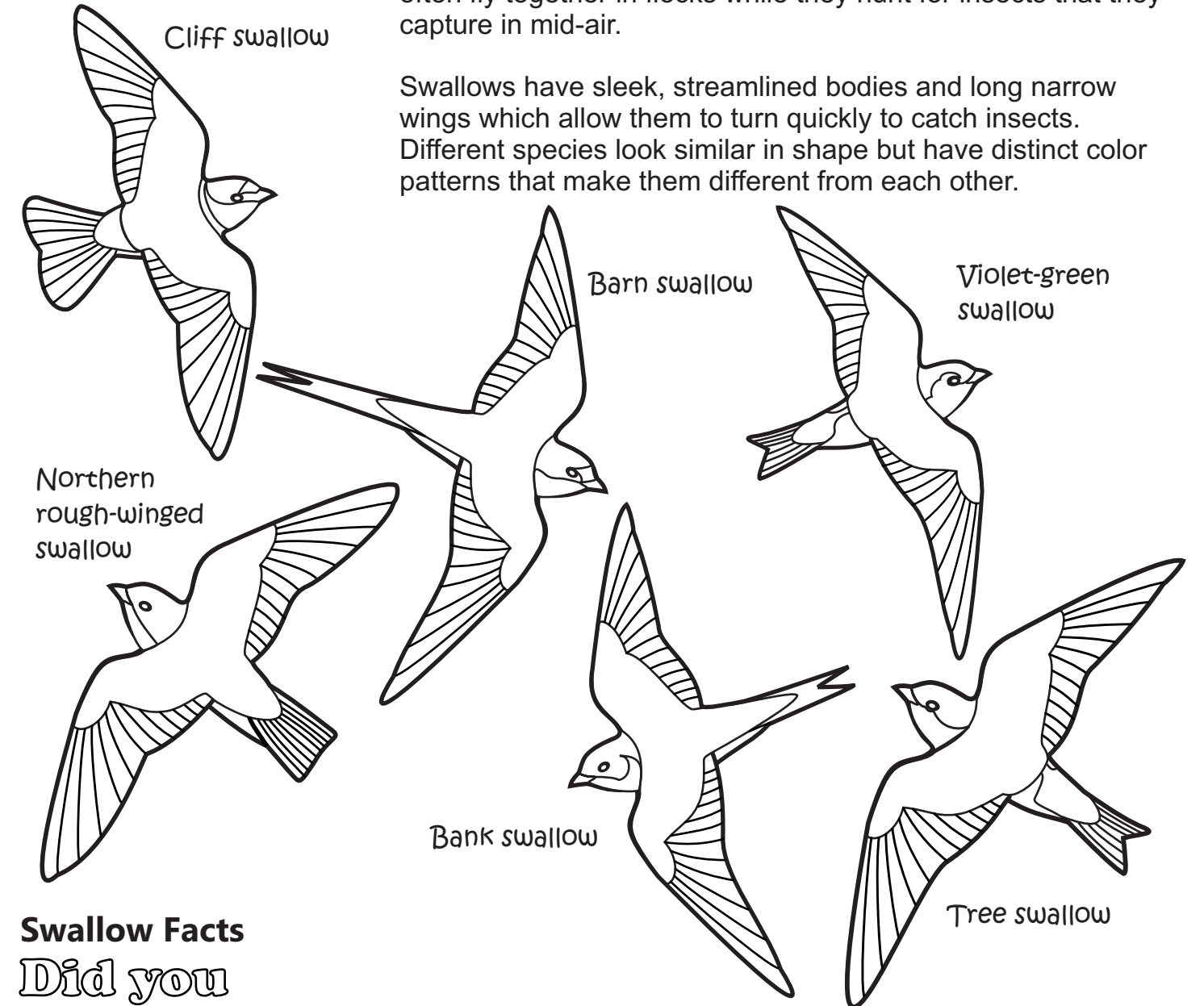
**Southwestern
New Mexico
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**
is a chapter of the
National Audubon Society

Activity Book

by Jackie Blurton

Swallows are common residents in the summer. They live together in groups called "colonies" and build their mud homes in cliffs, under bridges and under the eaves of buildings. They often fly together in flocks while they hunt for insects that they capture in mid-air.

Swallows have sleek, streamlined bodies and long narrow wings which allow them to turn quickly to catch insects. Different species look similar in shape but have distinct color patterns that make them different from each other.



Swallow Facts

Did you know?

Six species of swallows shown in the picture above. Can you name them? What can you tell about each from their names?

The Cliff, Barn, Violet-green and Northern rough-winged swallows live here all summer to nest and raise their families. The Tree swallow and Bank swallow migrate through here on their journey north.

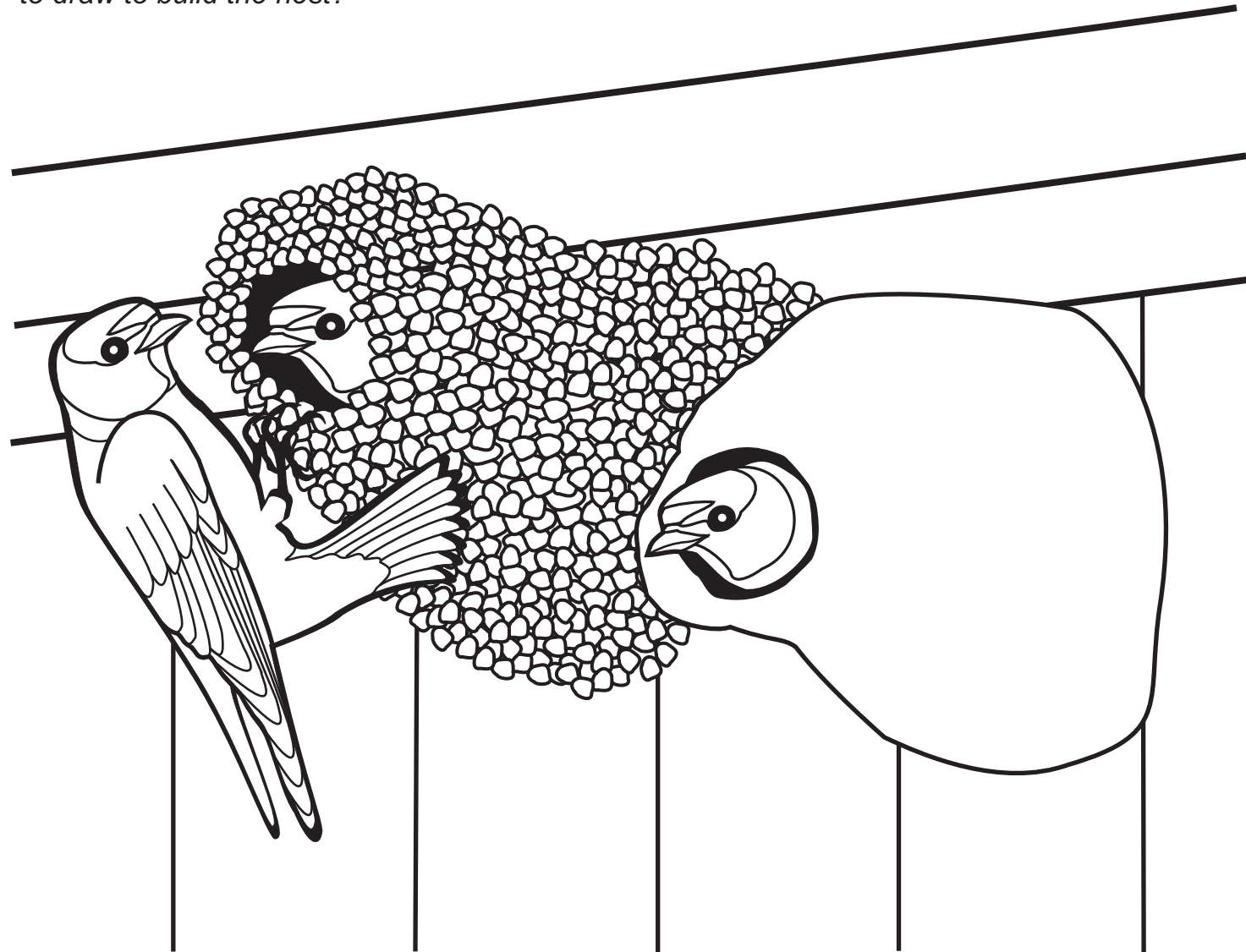
Master builders.

Can you build a Cliff swallow nest?

Draw the mud pellets on the second nest just like the first nest. How many pellets did you have to draw to build the nest?

Barn and Cave swallows build bowl-shaped nests from mud. They collect mud and form tiny pellets to the correct shape with their beaks then carry the pellets to their nest site.

Cliff swallows also build gourd-shaped mud nests made from mud pellets. Each nest has an opening just large enough for the bird to enter and exit.



Swallow Facts

Did you know?

It can take as many as 11,000 mud pellets to construct one nest! How many trips do you think one swallow would take to a mud puddle to get enough pellets to build a nest?

The swallow mud nests don't harm buildings and swallow droppings don't carry any diseases that affect people.

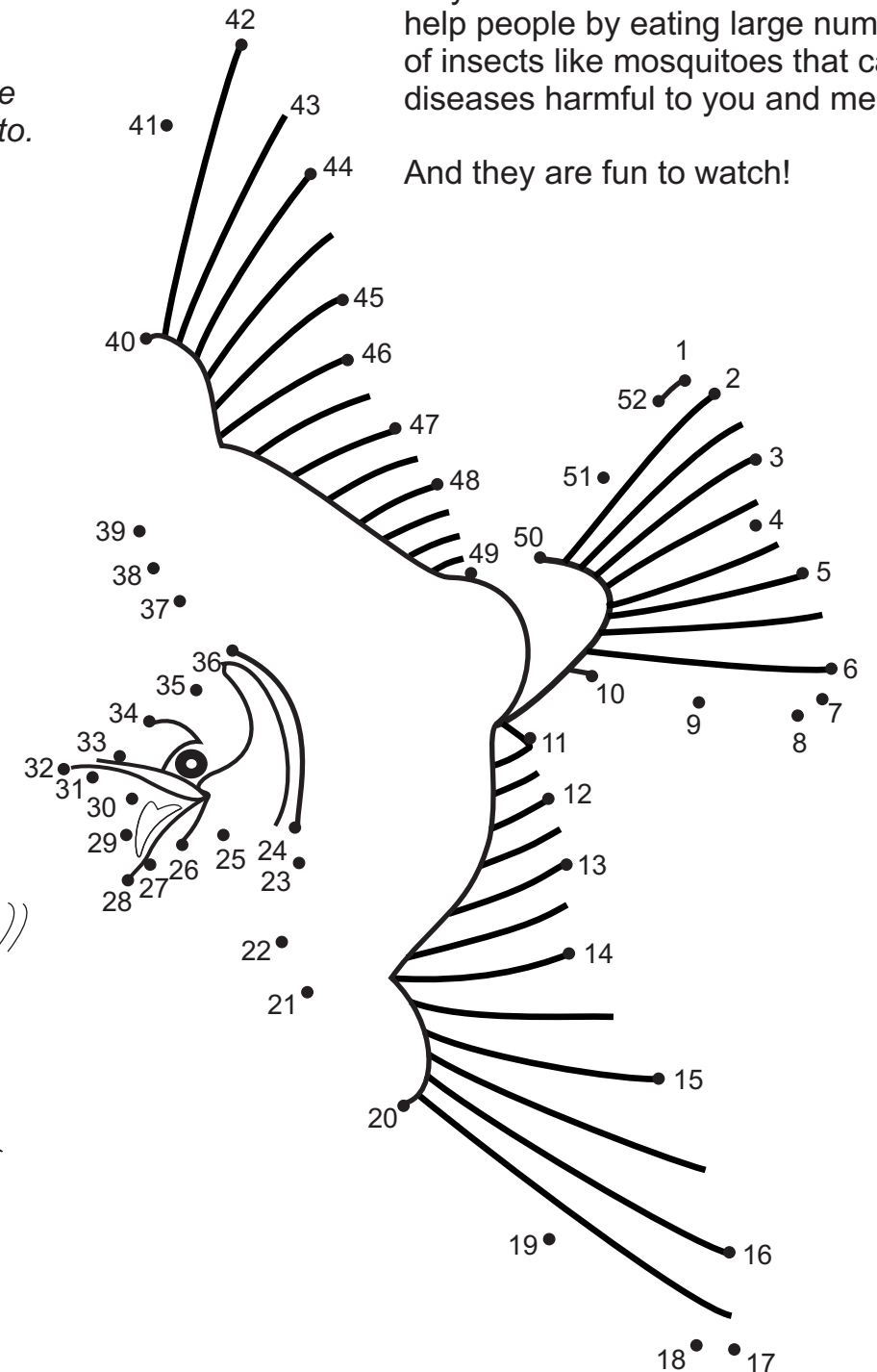
Hard working hunters.

Swallows fly fast. The insects never see them coming and are suddenly gobbled up.

Connect the dots and see the swallow surprise the mosquito.

Swallows usually feed in flocks. When you watch swallows you will see them flying around in circles, zig-zagging, dipping and swooping as they catch insects in mid-air. They help people by eating large numbers of insects like mosquitoes that carry diseases harmful to you and me.

And they are fun to watch!



Swallow Facts

Did you know?

Swallows can consume about 60 insects per hour! How many insects could 10 swallows eat in one hour?

YOU CAN HELP SWALLOWS by not using pesticides and harsh cleaning products like bleach outside your home. And please, do not disturb their nests. Thank you.