As insectivores they are very beneficial and their subsequent exodus to wintering areas few days of their summer appearance to nest arrival and departure. We know within a very admirable and appreciate the presence, agility and territoriality of these birds. Anyone who is interested in birds generally depend entirely on their ability to migrate where their food sources are available. Although cosmopolitan in their distribution, some of the birds in the western hemisphere of the Americas have yearly transects that may range somewhere within the extremes of summer nesting above the Arctic Circle in the far north, to wintering areas in Tierra del Fuego in the distant south.

The distribution of Barn Swallows in Arizona is somewhat limited to the eastern half of the state, especially in the southeastern portion. Arriving in late March or early April these locations are generally near open fields and grasslands where mud and suitable structures are available to build their nests. Their nests are usually placed under an overhang such as eaves and against vertical walls where mud can adhere or on a horizontal ledge or beam. Both sexes build their nest with mud that is generally mixed with straw or horsehair to help bind the mixture together. Feathers line the completed nest. By the end of April the first set of 3-7 eggs are laid, then, quickly following the young fledging, a second set is laid so two broods are raised prior to their departure in early September. During this period the graceful birds spend much of their day in the air, dashing and wheeling through the sky gathering insects. When returning to feed their nestlings, they are met amid much excitement, twittering and loud outcries. The young after leaving their nest and while learning learn to hunt, are often fed in mid-air by their parents.

The Swedish naturalist Carolus Linnaeus, named the "father of biological taxonomy," described the genus of this bird in Latin as hirundo, “a swallow” with the species scientific name rustica, “rustic” or “belonging to the country, rural.” He applied this name in 1758, while at same time comparing it to the European House Martin, to which he gave the Latin name urbica, “pertaining to the city.” Both swallows occur in Europe and were the first of several to be recognized and officially named. The common species name for this swallow was applied because of its close association and adaption to barn nesting sites in America.