TREE SWALLOW

© Rocío Landíva

After breeding, Tree Swallows gather in large flocks to molt and migrate. Each night, just before sunset—they form dense, tornado-like flocks above marshes or small groves of trees before settling down to roost.

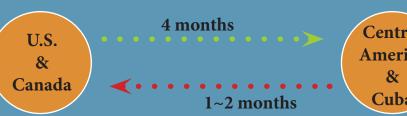
Although this swallow is one of the best-studied species in North America, we know very little about its migration or winter habits.

Tree Swallows dawdle during fall migration, taking up to 4 months to arrive in their wintering areas, whereas their spring migration lasts just 1 or 2 months.



At fall stopover sites in marshes, Tree Swallows feed on flying insects. Juvenile birds learn how to find and capture food.





Central **America** Cuba