

Foraging Habitat and Nesting Success of Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) near Whitehorse, Yukon

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Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) nest colonially in burrows they dig themselves in sandy, near-vertical banks like those found along lakes, rivers and in aggregate pits. They have recently experienced drastic population declines on their Canadian breeding grounds, but little is known about its cause. In an effort to determine if habitat alteration is contributing to this decline, I examined connections between foraging habitat surrounding nest colonies and the success of adult Bank Swallows in obtaining food for their nestlings. Using Yukon land cover data and ArcGIS software, I quantified habitat within 1 kilometer of nest colonies and compared this to the frequency Bank Swallow nestlings were fed over the nesting season. This poster displays my preliminary results and methods.