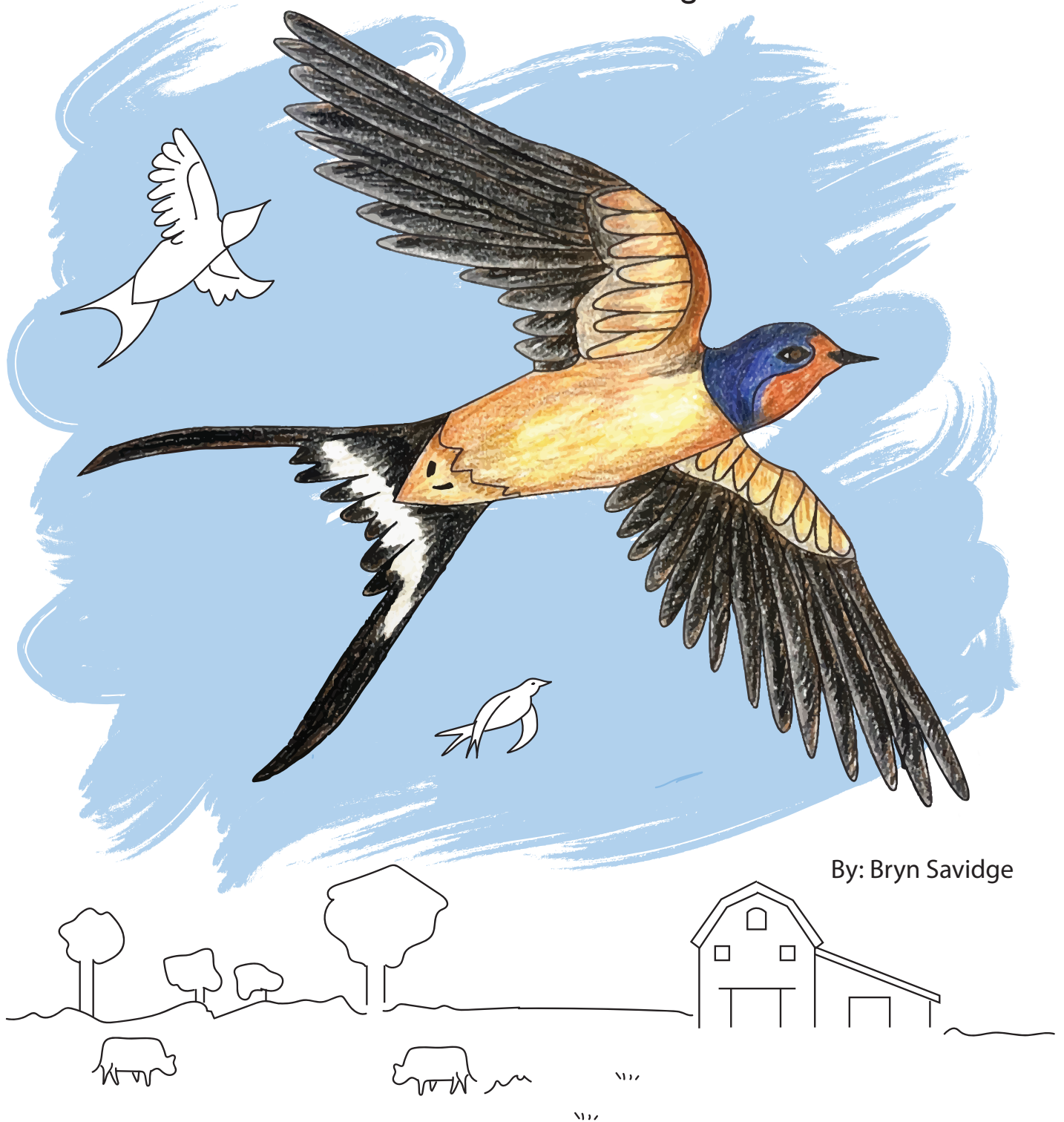


# Studying Swallows

An interactive coloring book for kids!



By: Bryn Savidge

# About Barn Swallows

Barn swallows are the most abundant species of swallow in the world, building their nests near human populations in man-made structures. Barn swallows also have an extensive range, as they are found breeding in the Northern Hemisphere during the summer and migrate to the Southern Hemisphere in the winter.

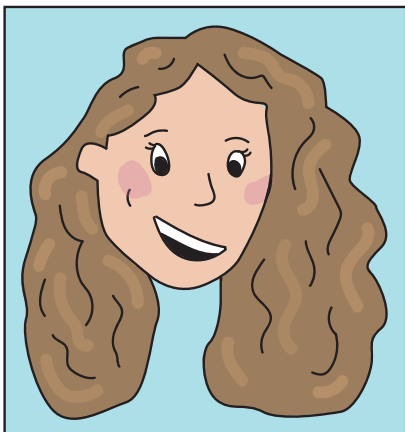
Because of how widespread these songbirds are, they are easy subjects to study both at the individual and population level. This makes them important areas of focus for behavioral, ecological, and evolutionary biology.

Unfortunately, this widespread species is declining. Barn swallow populations are left vulnerable in the face of land use changes, such as the urbanization of rural areas, and changes in agricultural practices, such as pesticide use.

This coloring book serves as an educational guide for young audiences on barn swallows. It is based on Iris Levin's field research on barn swallows in Knox County. With numerous unique facts and questions for all ages, this book provides a look at the barn swallow from multiple perspectives and highlights the importance of studying this well known bird.

## Coloring Tips:

Barn swallows can be distinguished from other birds by their dark blueish-black tail, back, and wings. They have a rusty orange-colored throat and underbelly.



## About the Author

Illustrator and authorship belongs to Kenyon College student Bryn Savidge '24. She has created this work as a scholar of the 2022 Hoskins-Frame Summer Science Writing Program. She is currently pursuing a major in environmental studies with a concentration in public policy.

# The Levin Lab Team

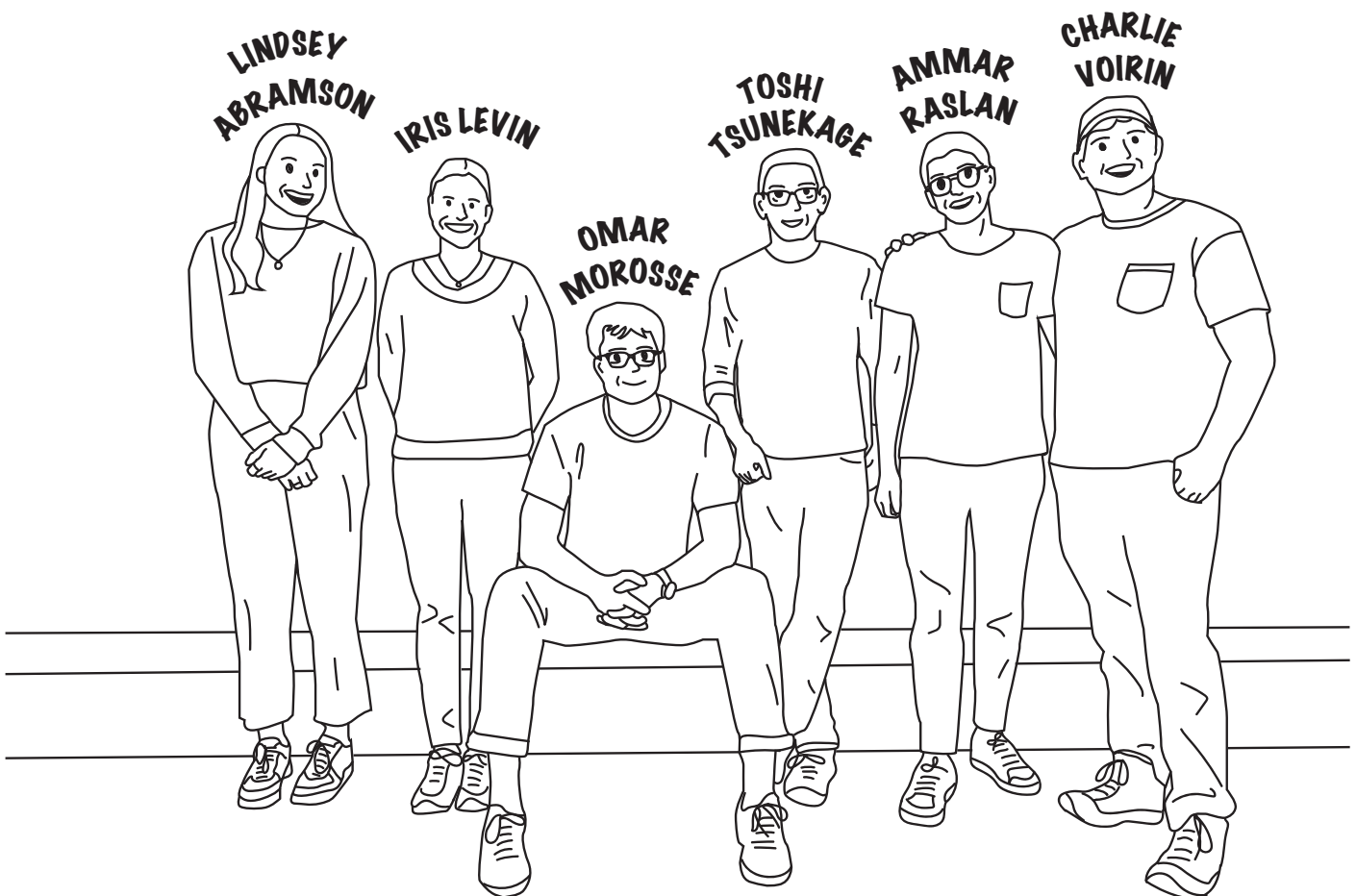
Kenyon College Professor Iris Levin studies barn swallows in Gambier, Ohio and regularly conducts field research every summer. Her work contributes to the understanding of how phenotypic (physical) traits affect social behavior, as well as how social interactions impact an individual's physiology.

This work is supported by the Rural Life Initiative and Kenyon's Office for Community Partnerships. Additional support comes from NSF-IOS-1856254 and Kenyon College's Summer Science Scholars program.

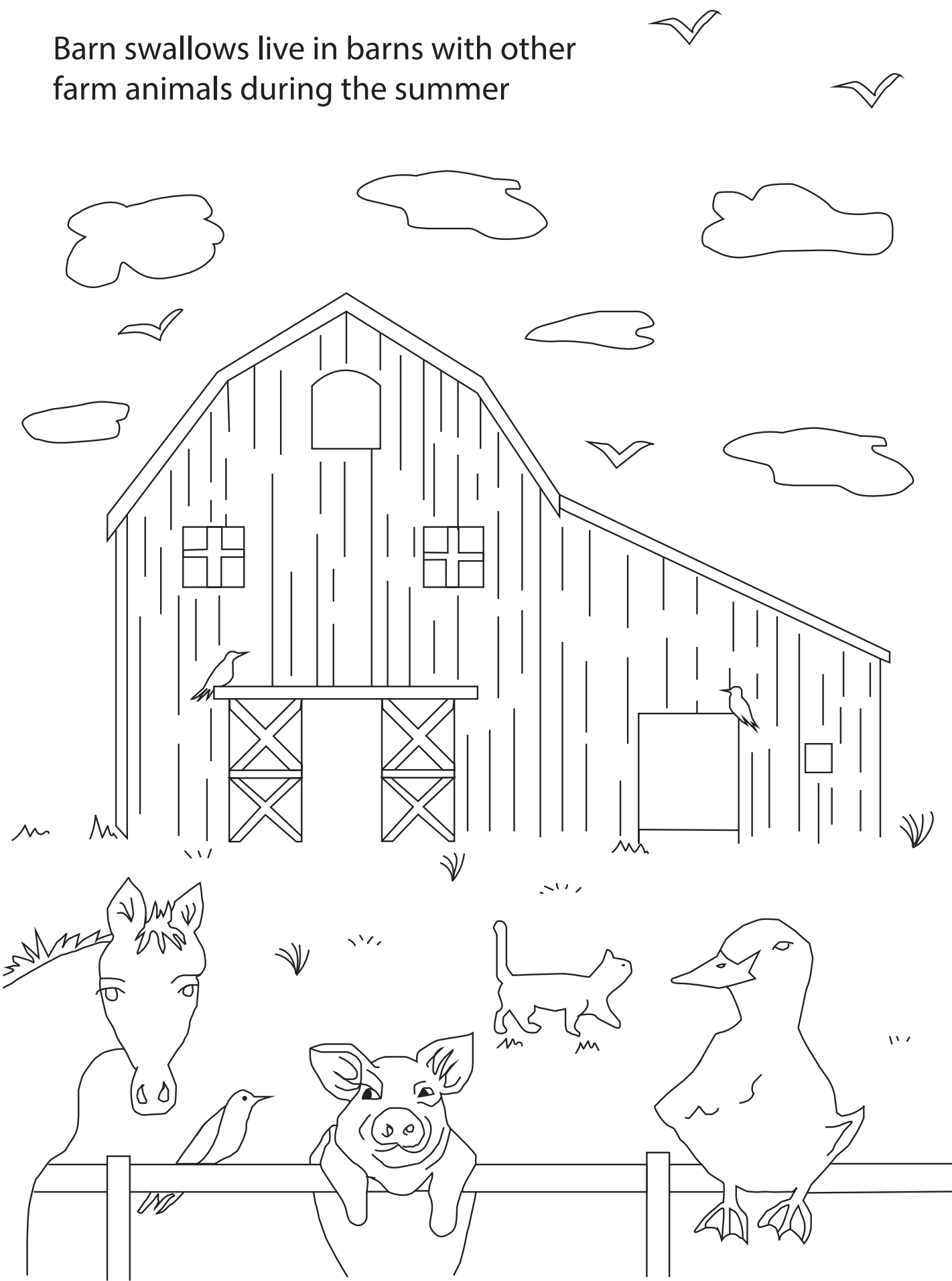
For more information on Iris Levin, visit <https://irisilenalevin.weebly.com/>.

To learn more about Kenyon's Rural Life Initiative, visit <https://digital.kenyon.edu/ruralife/>.

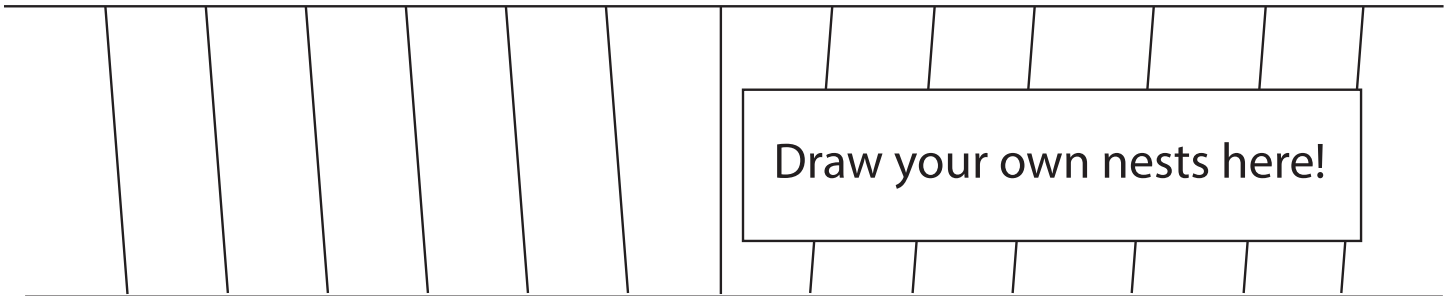
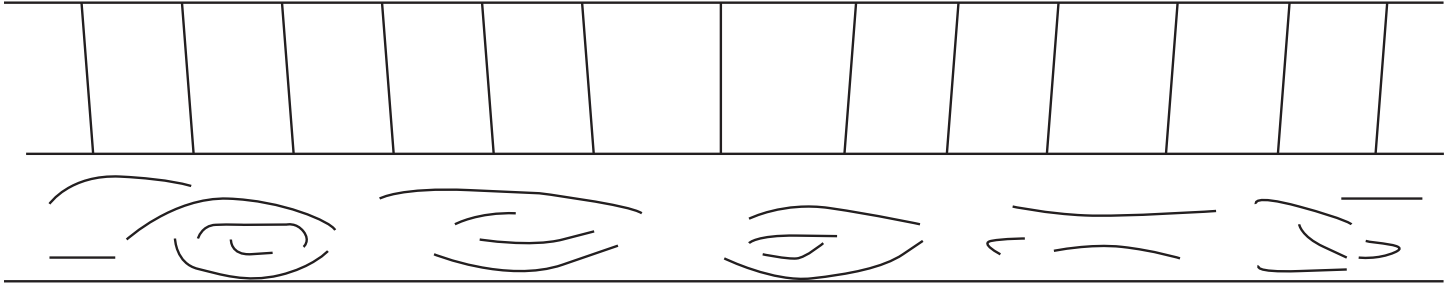
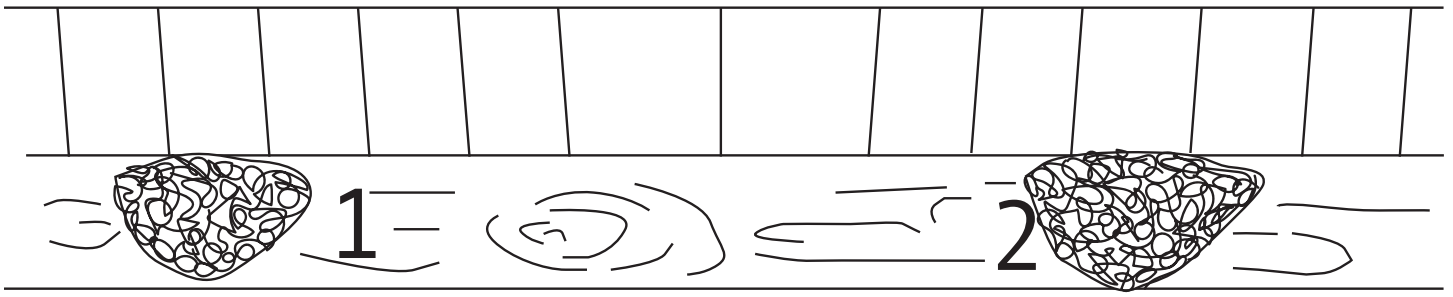
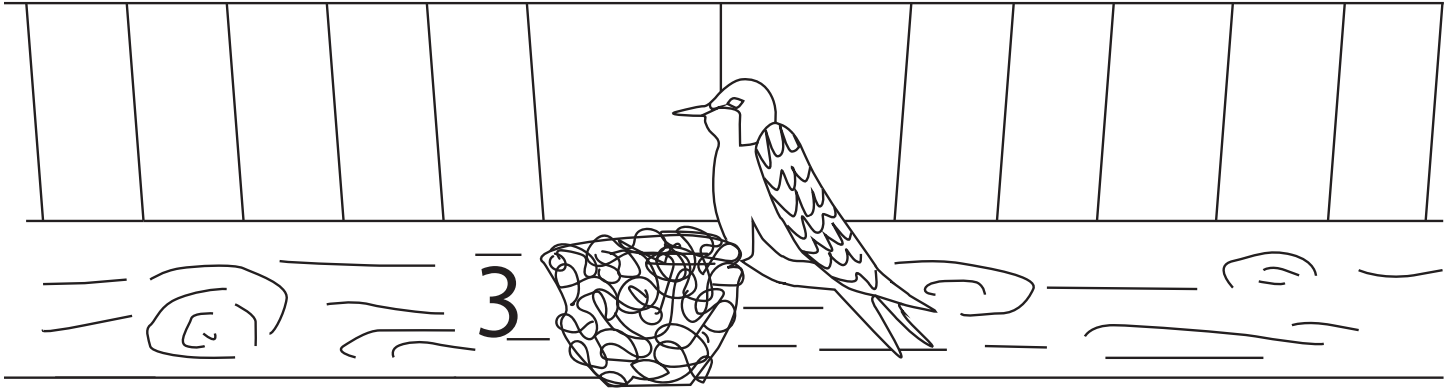
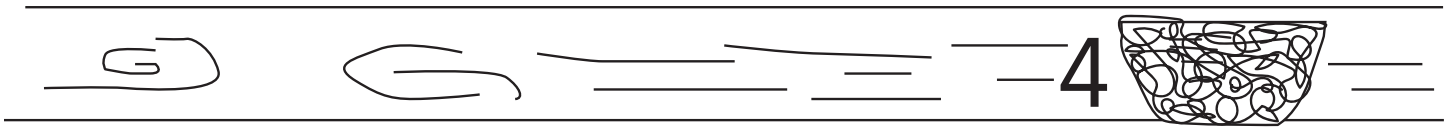
Special thanks to Iris Levin and her summer 2022 lab team!



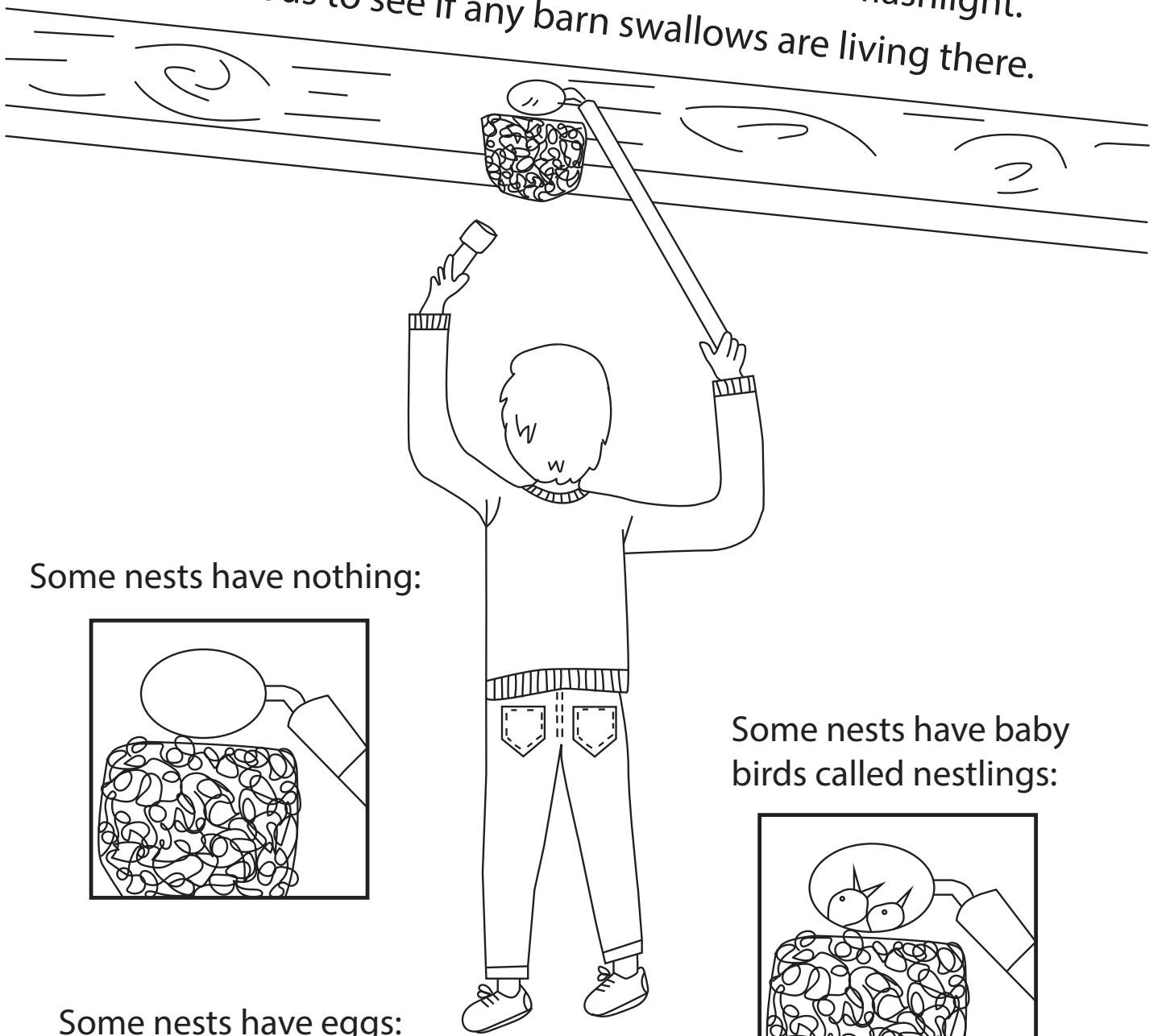
Barn swallows live in barns with other farm animals during the summer



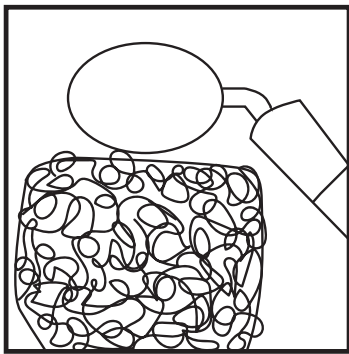
They build their nests on barn ceilings with mud and straw. One barn can hold dozens of nests! How many nests do you see in this barn?



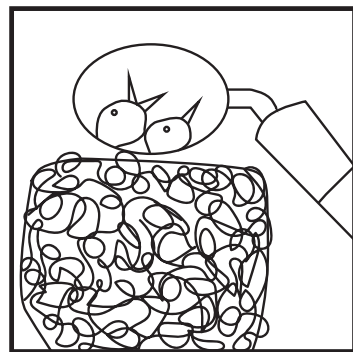
Scientists check each nest daily with a mirror and flashlight.  
They are curious to see if any barn swallows are living there.



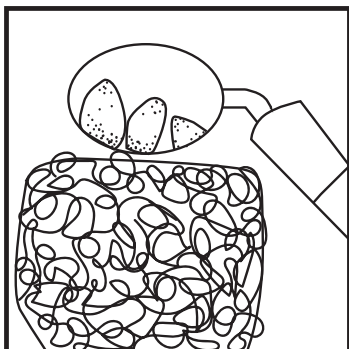
Some nests have nothing:



Some nests have baby birds called nestlings:

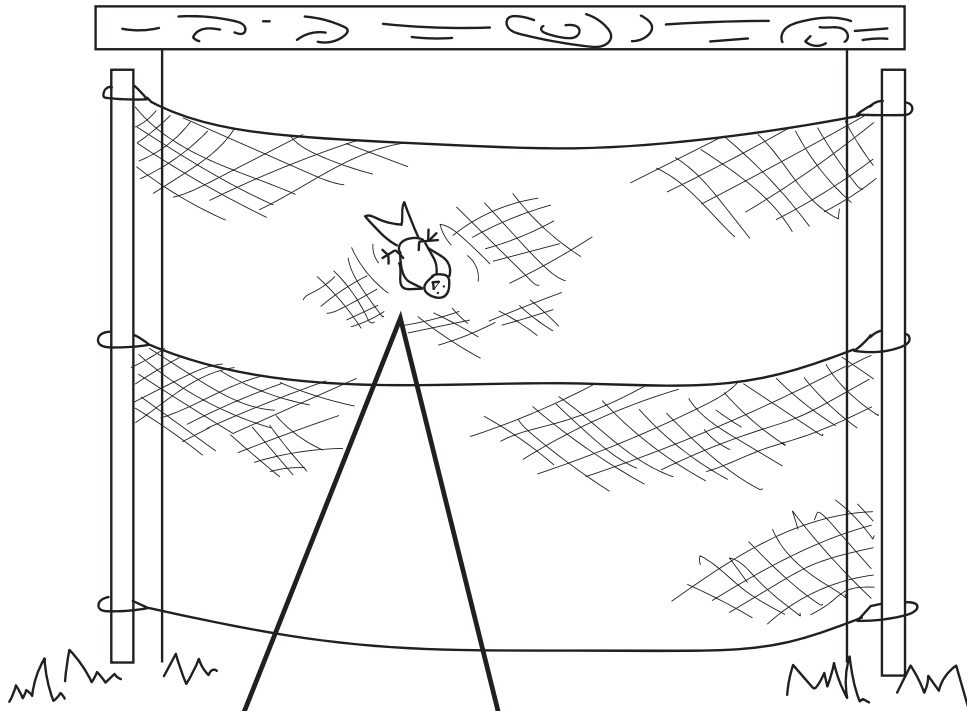


Some nests have eggs:

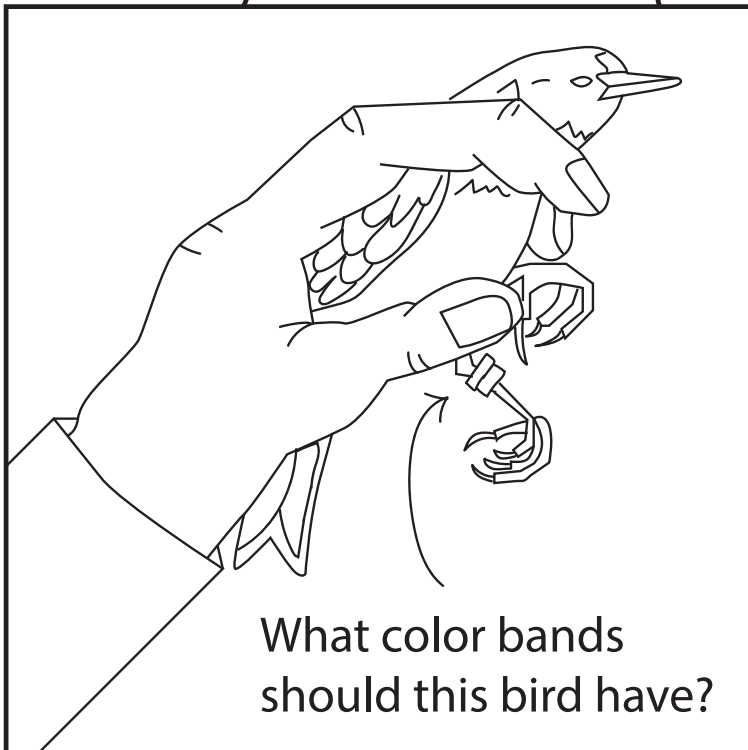


How many nestlings do you see in this nest?

Scientists catch barn swallows in special nets called mistnets.



Mistnets are very thin and are almost invisible to birds!



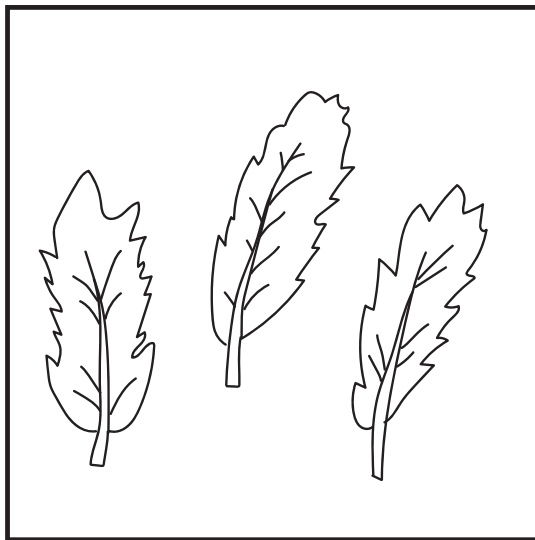
What color bands should this bird have?

The birds are caught so they can get special bands on their leg to identify them. Each bird gets two different colors.



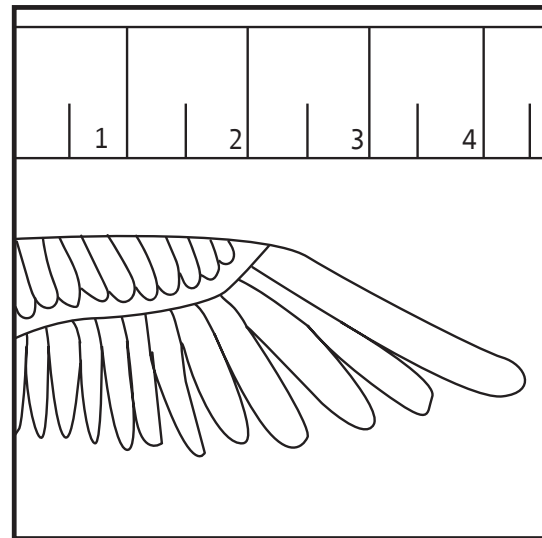
Then, scientists record data about each bird, like its wing length, weight and feather color. They do this to learn about how barn swallows interact with each other and live their everyday lives.

Every observation is important!

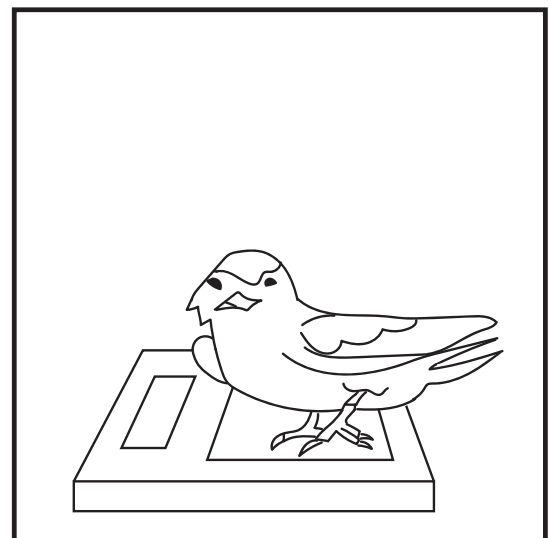


What color feathers do barn swallows have?

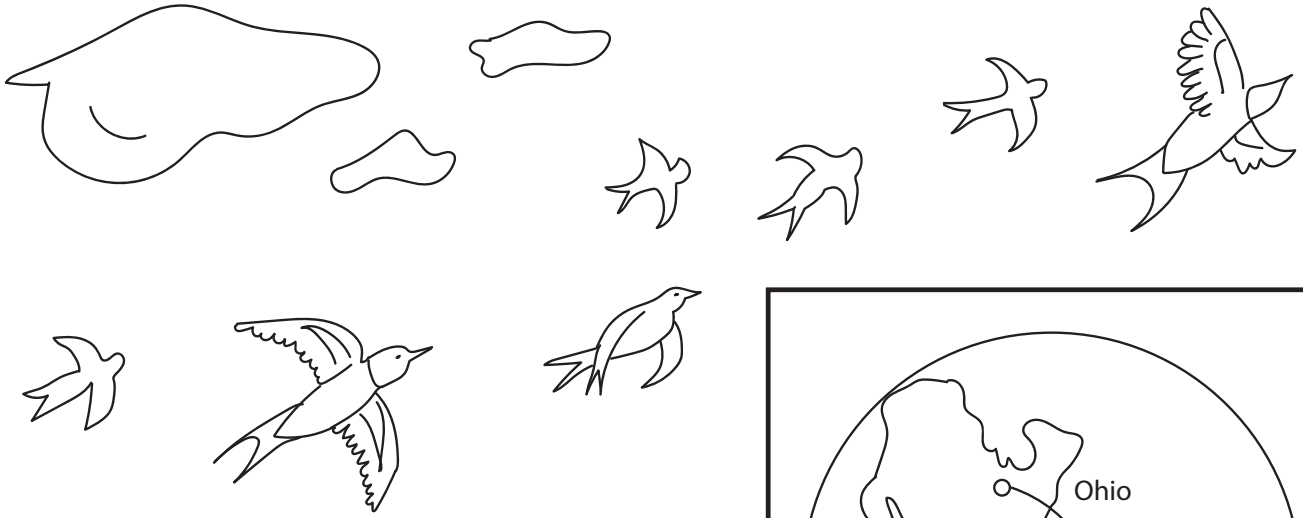
Fun fact: barn swallows weigh less than your pencil!



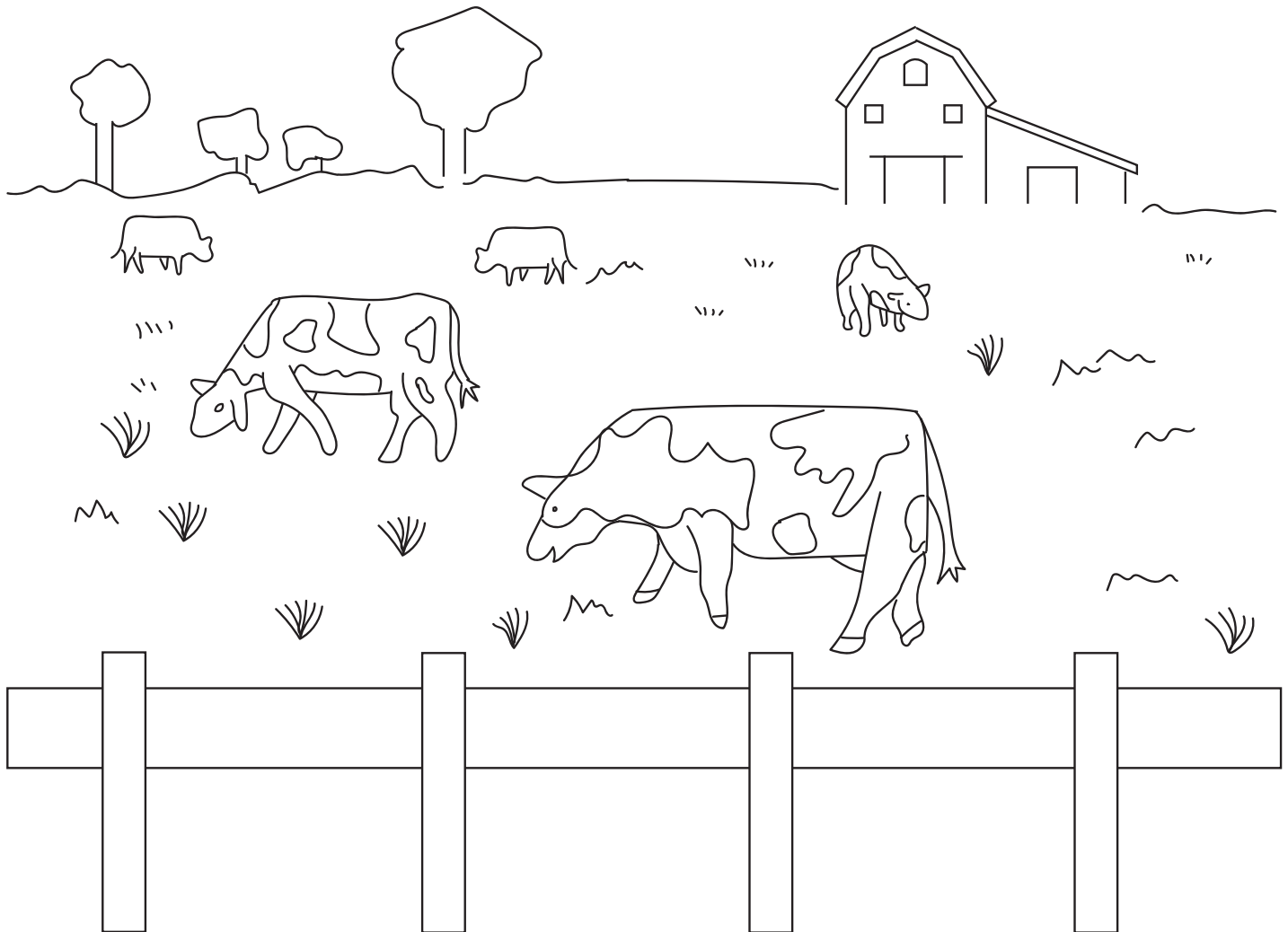
This wing is \_\_\_\_ inches long.





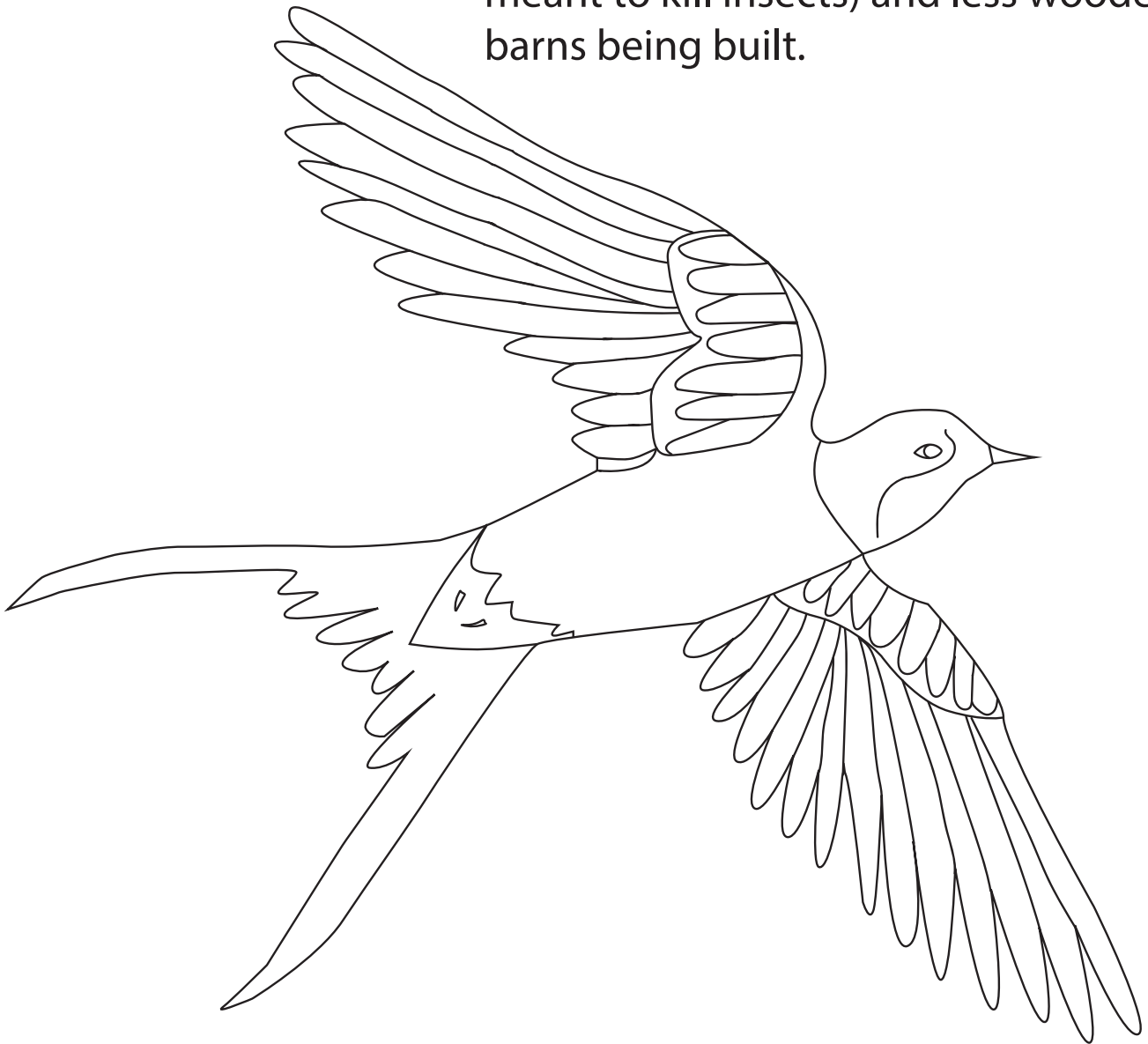


When the summer ends, barn swallows in Ohio migrate to South America to stay warm during the winter. They fly over 2,000 miles!



Barn swallows are important to us because they help eat flying insects like mosquitoes. When we see them, we know the environment is healthy.

Sadly, their populations are declining because of pesticide use (sprays meant to kill insects) and less wooden barns being built.



Using less pesticides, putting wooden ledges or fake nests inside of barns can help attract more barn swallows. What else do you think you can do to help these birds?

