



March 26, 2008

Altacal Audubon Society  
PO Box 3671 Chico, California 95927-3671  
<http://www.altacal.org/>

Hello California Birders,

As a participant of a newly formed Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) working group including agencies and conservation organizations, I am hoping to get Bank Swallow colony information or contact information for those who may be knowledgeable about colony locations, extinct or active, throughout CA.

I am the Conservation Chair for Altacal Audubon Society in Chico (northern CA), and a CSU Chico graduate student working with Bank Swallows with CA Fish and Game (CDFG) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The swallow was listed as state threatened in 1989 and a recovery plan was published for the species in 1992. CDFG and USFWS have conducted annual swallow surveys along a 100 mile reach of the Sacramento River from Red Bluff to Colusa, documenting the number of nesting pairs, colonies and colony locations. The first survey was conducted in 1986 with an estimated 13,000 + pairs and since; this number has stayed below 10,000, even dropping to fewer than 5,000 pairs. A statewide survey was conducted in 1987 and results of the two survey methods concluded that 50% of the CA Bank Swallow population was estimated to nest on the Red Bluff to Colusa Reach, with 70% of the total CA population nesting along the Sacramento and Feather Rivers. In 2007, the number of active burrows was estimated at just over 9,000 in the study area.

CDFG has plans to conduct a second formal statewide survey to update the status of the swallow. This investigation will contribute to that survey, is an effort targeted by the working group, and may be included as part of my thesis research. Bank Swallows are currently wintering southward but should be showing up March/April. We are looking for historic (1988-2007) and 2008 sightings this spring/summer. If you know of colonies that are extinct (within this time frame) for whatever reason, please include that information as well as why the extinction may have occurred. I have attached a form and filled it in with an example of the information we are requesting; simply type over the example text in the form. If you need more forms, visit the link on our website <http://www.altacal.org/> . Please email me with additional contacts.

Thank you,

Dawn Garcia  
**[mel.dawn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mel.dawn@sbcglobal.net)**  
Conservation Chair- Altacal Audubon Society



# Altacal Audubon Society

## BANK SWALLOW COLONY REQUEST FORM

### MEMBER BANK SWALLOW WORKING GROUP 2008

#### OBSERVER INQUIRY INFORMATION

Observer: Dawn Garcia

Physical address: 6372 Harvey Road, Paradise, CA

E-Mail Address: Mel.dawn@sbcglobal.net

Phone/Extension (530) 872-2165

#### BANK SWALLOW (BANS) COLONY DETAILS

Colony location (UTM/ lat-long):	<u>39°41'54.89"N, 121°56'41.96"W *</u>	Date (s) observed:	<u>June 7, 2007</u>
Location description:	<u>Sacramento River, west bank RM 192 (based on 1997 SR atlas) **</u>	Burrow numbers:	<u>~ 200</u>
Number birds observed:	<u>~ 50 adults flying around</u>	"Type activity"	<u>nesting</u>

#### Habitat description and additional details

Located along the west bank at approximately RM 192 on the Sacramento River. The colony is just downstream from the Indian River Fisheries State Park. There were approximately 200 burrows over a 100' stretch of the bank. The bank was vertical and approximately 10' tall. The overhead vegetation was a fallow field, with a small section of native riparian vegetation. The colony was active on the date of observation, with adults foraging and feeding nestlings.

\*location shown on Google Earth by typing in above coordinates

\*\*Sacramento River Atlas

<http://www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov/publications/97sacriveratlas/index.html>

**supporting documentation (maps, photos, etc)** yes, photos attached

“type activity” could refer to foraging location, nesting colonies, migration staging areas (large numbers of birds gathering during migration), etc.