



## Birdies of the Month 5

The **Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*) or the **Barn Swallow**, as it is now called, are small birds with dark, glossy-blue backs, **red throats**, pale underparts and **long tail streamers**.

They are extremely agile in flight and spend most of their time on the wing.

During late Spring and Summer you will see them all over Childwall Golf course but often in large numbers around the 10<sup>th</sup> green and 11<sup>th</sup> tee. This is due to the close proximity of South Liverpool Sewage Works which provides an abundance of flying insects which the swallows scoop up on the wing.

The **House martin** (*Delichon urbicum*) is similar in size to the swallow but with darker, glossy blue-black backs and pure white under parts. It has a distinctive **white rump** with a **forked tail**.

It also spends much of its time on the wing collecting insect prey.

Both **Swallows** and **House martins** build a mud nest which is usually sited below the eaves of buildings.

In their natural surroundings Swallows and House martins will build a nest in caves and cliff/rock faces (Sand martins build nests in holes on a muddy bank).

They are both summer migrants and spend their Winter in Africa.



Swallows are abundant around Childwall Golf course in the late Spring and Summer especially around the 10<sup>th</sup> green and the 11<sup>th</sup>



Swallows in flight catching flying insects on the wing



House martins: perched & in flight

