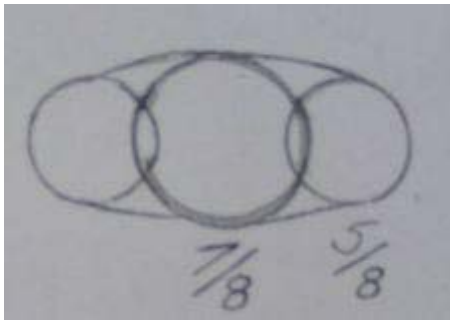


## **Making the Oval Hole for Violet Green Swallows**

This oval hole keeps out English House sparrows and creates a vacancy for swallows, chickadees, wrens, nuthatches and other small birds. This hole would be best in 3/4" thick piece of hardwood. There are many ways of making the oval hole. You could make a jig and use a router and flush bearing bit. The following are two easy ways to make the hole.

1. With 7/8" and 5/8" forstner wood bits.  
Trim out the remaining bits with a coping saw to get a good oval shape. Then file and sand (but do not exceed the 7/8" in height.)



2. Or, if you only have a 5/8" flat wood bit, measure 1 1/2" across then drill two 5/8" holes on each end staying within the 1 1/2" mark. Measure 7/8" height in the middle and draw an oval shape.

Cut inside of this line, then file and sand to 7/8". The hole should not exceed 7/8" in height. It is okay to be wider than 1 1/2". (1 1/2" is the minimum width)

For attracting swallows for the first time, paint a black round shape hole around the oval hole.

Wrens will use a 1" round hole as well. For your yard, you should only be using two hole sizes: the oval hole or a 1" round hole. Anything else will let house sparrows in.

For more information call Mac and Chris at (250) 727-2665 or email at [swallows@shaw.ca](mailto:swallows@shaw.ca)

Thank you Calvor Palmateer for this info. For Wild Birds and Gardeners (250)881-7575 or email at [hummgarden@telus.net](mailto:hummgarden@telus.net)

