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Reds under the bed

01oct05

THEY say personality is more important than looks for women - but try telling that to the North American barn swallow.

Scientists found female barn swallows would not hesitate to cheat if they spied a more handsome suitor. The female bird constantly compares the appearance of her mate with that of other males. advertisement ▼

US researchers were able to influence the birds' mating habits by painting the throats, breast and belly feathers of males with a red marker.

As far as the female North American barn swallow is concerned, a red breast is best.

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