

Living With Wildlife: SWALLOWS



ISSUE - NESTING UNDER EAVES AND ELIMINATING

Suggestions:

- Lay sheets of newspaper, cardboard, or a washable mat on the deck beneath the nest and change or clean it often.
- Attach a board to the wall of the house, about 2 feet below the nest, to catch droppings. Clean or remove the board after young have flown.
- Wash away mud nests frequently between nest construction attempts. If they are unsuccessful in building a nest, they may give up and move somewhere else. Be cautious to only remove nests that do not contain eggs or chicks.
- Create a barrier from the outer eave to the edge of the building using stretched bird netting or chicken wire before the birds return in spring.
- Remove old nests and any traces of mud. Swallows often use old nests, so clearing them may help deter the birds from returning.
- Play distress calls from swallows to try and disrupt nest construction.



Protection: All swallows are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal to take, possess, transport, sell or purchase any part of their life without a permit. Active nests with eggs or chicks may not be touched or destroyed without a permit. However, inactive (empty) nests do not require a permit for removal.

