

Please Help Us Have a Safe Visit!

We are Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). We breed in North America, and migrate here in early April, after spending winter in South America.

We stay with you for only about 4 months, during which time we build our special nests from mud, lay eggs and raise our chicks.

We catch and eat an awful lot of insects to feed ourselves, and our hungry chicks, and this helps you, because some of those insects can be really pesky.

We try and be fairly tidy, and we remove our babies' mess in special sacks, and take them away from the nesting sites.

We won't attack you if you come close, but we like a little space.



A pair of Cliff Swallows at their nests under a bridge.
Photo by Ken Thomas.

After we leave, in early August, you are welcome to clean away our nests.
We prefer to build new nests when we return next Spring.

We are disappearing from New Hampshire. We are classified under the NH Fish & Game Department as a "Special Concern" species, which means that we have experienced dramatic loss of our colonies in NH, with many former colonies now unoccupied.

Additional Information: Swallows are federally protected. Any permit to lethally control these species would need to be issued from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A permit is not required to remove swallow nests under construction that do not contain an adult, any new eggs or young, or nests abandoned after the breeding season. If an adult swallow is occupying a half-built nest, or a fully built nest without eggs, then the law protects it.



Prepared by Swallow CORE, a citizen science project of NH Audubon:
84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301
www.nhaudubon.org