

**What to do about Swallows – Dave deCalesta – Reprinted from 9-05
KLA Newsletter**

Kvik-kvik! Kvik-kvik! For about the hundredth time this summer, I was bombarded by swallows the other day. They whistled past my ear, brushing my cheek with their wings as they protested my presence on my dock (or theirs, maybe, where they were raising their THIRD brood of the season). We were lucky though, our boat is on a hoist in the open. Others are not so lucky, as swallows roosting over their boats in boathouses and covered lifts defile their boat covers with hundreds of droppings.

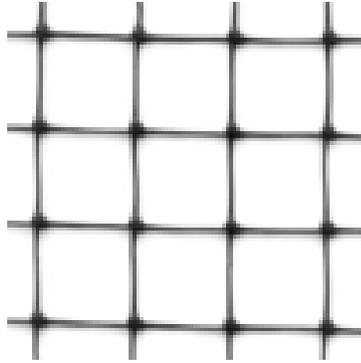


What to do?

Swallows build their nests on beams in boathouses (and under docks, too!)



The best solution is to exclude swallows from areas they are not wanted. Large areas such as roofs of boat houses and lifts are best protected by applying bird netting, usually 3/8 inch size. Visit the website: www.nixalite.com for details. Home improvement stores like Lowes, Home Depot, and Chase-Pitkin also carry the netting. Staple the netting in contiguous sheets underneath beams to exclude swallows from nesting sites. Applying the netting is a good week-end job for fall or early spring weekends. The netting will last 15 or more years in boathouses and covered lists. A little annual maintenance is required to repair tears.



Another useful tool is the nixalite “porcupine” – stainless steel spikes that can be attached to nesting sites under docks and on beams. The material comes in rolls which can be cut to length and stapled to nesting/roosting sites. The porcupines may be applied to posts and pilings to discourage gulls from roosting. More information is available on the website posted above. Maintain these often: if they become dislodged and end up in the lake they act as “mines” for unsuspecting waders.

