

News from Nan

NEWS 'N' VIEWS

SWALLOWS

APRIL 30, 2010 | ANNA



On March 17, 2010 (St. Patrick's Day), the swallows returned to our apartment complex. We recently read that "our" swallows (the cliff variety) fly as far south as Brazil and Argentina during our wintertime. What sturdy little fliers they are!

Anyway, as soon as I saw them I felt terribly guilty—after we moved in last year I asked the apartment management to please clean our windows and patio, and, "while you're at it, why don't you remove the swallow nests and put a slippery coating on the side of the building so they can't come back."

Well, they did hose down the nests, but they didn't put on the coating, so as soon as the little guys got back they very diligently began creating their mud nests again. And they've been at it for many weeks (except if it's raining, when they disappear for a few days).

Of course we're now in love with them and would help them defend their nests against all enemies (oops, I guess that would be me).

Actually, we don't need to worry, because it's actually illegal to disturb them during nesting season. And this time I'll keep my mouth shut in the fall when they wing their way south again.

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