

MIGRATORY BIRD NESTS

Barn and Cliff Swallows can be found on structures located near water. They nest singly or in colonies.



Cliff Swallows on bridge



Eastern Phoebe, female feeding young on nest

Eastern Phoebe, female on nest



Eastern Phoebes will nest alone on bridges and in culverts located near water.

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Identification of Bat and Bird use of INDOT Structures



Previous use of a bridge by swallows may only be evident by scars from old nests



Barn Swallow nests under bridge

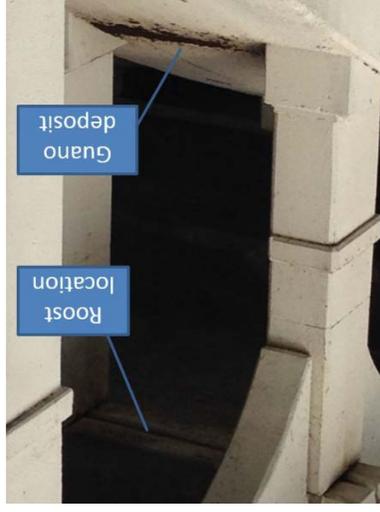


This is what you need to know to determine if any bats are using a structure. You are not required to identify the type of bat.

Where - Bats may roost in dark, warm or wind sheltered, quiet locations. For a bridge, this usually means at the abutments, against beams near abutments, in joints, cracks or in any small crevasse. In a culvert they may be located in the darker areas near the center of the structure or in degraded cavities formed in corroding metal.

What -

Visual signs of bat presence includes guano, stains from urine or fur oil. Guano looks similar to mouse droppings or dark brown or black rice grains. It will accumulate in undisturbed areas below roost locations. It may also wash away on riprap that is frequently inundated. It will be difficult to detect on soil or vegetation.



Guano on riprap from a roost location directly above.

Staining looks like a dense water or oil stain, and may be wet or dry. Urine stains may be found at or below roosts. You may also smell the urine. Oil stains may be found where bats repeatedly rub against surfaces while accessing roost sites in crevasses.



If bats are disturbed or upset you may also hear them. Bats sound like a rapid, thin squeak.

Bats roosting under a bridge. The following photo shows how small this species is when compared to the mud dauber nest.

