

Surveying for Swifts


Please also keep an eye out for swifts whenever you're out for a walk locally. All information will be gratefully received!

You are likely to be swift-watching around private properties. Please take care to avoid doing anything which might be seen as intruding on people's privacy. Please don't use binoculars.

Perhaps carry a clip board and talk to passers-by about what you're doing and why. Nests have often been found by chatting to neighbours whilst surveying.

Any questions, please email.

Please add your results to the RSPB Swift Mapper App, or email:

 dankron@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you!

This is a swift...



They differ from swallows and house martins because...

They never perch;

They appear completely black;

Their wings form a distinctive arc;

They nest out of sight in nooks and crannies, under the eaves, roof tiles or gutters of buildings.

Since 1995 their numbers have fallen by about 60% and they are now red-listed. One important reason for their decline is that traditional nest sites are being lost when buildings are renovated or demolished.

Salisbury and Wilton Swifts aims to stem the decline. Finding where swifts are nesting helps us to promote swift-friendly building work and to campaign for more nest sites.

We are building more and more houses for people to live in, but how are our swifts faring?

We are asking you to help us investigate... by recording any places where swifts are nesting, or places where you see screaming parties of swifts flying low over rooftops.

Or better still, by doing your own survey near where you live...



Location

Choose a block of streets not larger than 500m x 500m.

Timing

Walk all the streets (at least twice if possible) between late May and late July, watching the buildings closely. Calm, warm evenings around sunset are best.

Take Notes

If you see a swift entering the fabric of a building (or a nest box) and staying in for at least 30 seconds, please record the address. Please also record the location of any screaming parties.

Report Back

Please submit your records with as much detail as you can, even if you have surveyed and not seen any swifts at all!

