

# Swifts Need Your Help!

The UK's Swift population has declined by **53%** between 1995 and 2016 and it is estimated that **20,000** nest sites are needed every year just to stabilise the current UK population! You can see Swifts in the UK for only 3 months between May and August when they are here to breed and we need your help to record their nest location during this time.

If we know where existing nests are, we can help protect them and provide new nests if needed in the best places



Swifts nest in urban and rural locations. They nest in holes and cracks as well as artificial nest boxes. Their nests are usually above 5 metres high.

## Swift Nest Sightings Needed!

We want to know if you see:

- Swifts flying low over rooftops and then dipping down towards a building and disappearing, it is likely that they have entered a nest.
- Swifts flying low in groups screaming (indicates that there are nests nearby).

Tell us at [www.naturespot.org.uk/swifts](http://www.naturespot.org.uk/swifts)  
email us at [landrswifts@gmail.com](mailto:landrswifts@gmail.com), visit [@lrswifts](https://www.instagram.com/lrswifts) or  
download the **Swift Mapper app** from Google play or the App Store

# Swift and their Nests' Identification

Swifts can easily be confused with Swallows and House Martins which also nest in buildings. Here are some tips to distinguish Swifts and their nests.



## Swift

Naturally swifts nest in cracks or holes in cliffs or trees. In urban environments, they will use holes and cracks in buildings so they won't be visible. Swifts will however, use boxes similar to the ones pictured. We want to know if these are being used too.

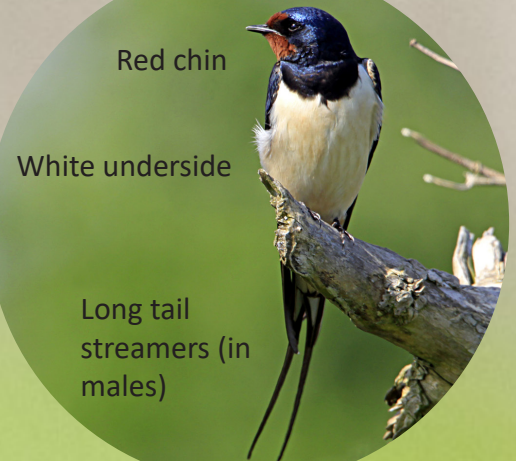
Loud, screaming calls



## Swallow

Nests made out of mud and straw, these are inside barns and outbuildings.

Twittering song



## House Martin

Nests in mud nests usually under the eaves of buildings.

Clicking call



### The Swift Project Partnership

This partnership includes Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society, Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, The National Forest and Charnwood Borough Council. A key aim of this partnership project is to raise awareness of the need to protect and enhance Swift nesting sites in the planning system and encourage landlords/home owners/developers to erect nesting boxes when making changes to existing buildings - for more information see [www.naturespot.org.uk/swifts](http://www.naturespot.org.uk/swifts)



Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust



Leicestershire County Council



Charnwood



Leicester City Council