



SWIFT CONSERVATION

KEEPING THE SKIES ALIVE

www.swift-conservation.org

Impeckable Swift Nest-boxes at Your Home



A Swift approaches its nest in an Impeckable nest box fitted with a sunshade

Congratulations! You have bought a nest box and want to help Swifts!

Why Swifts need our Help

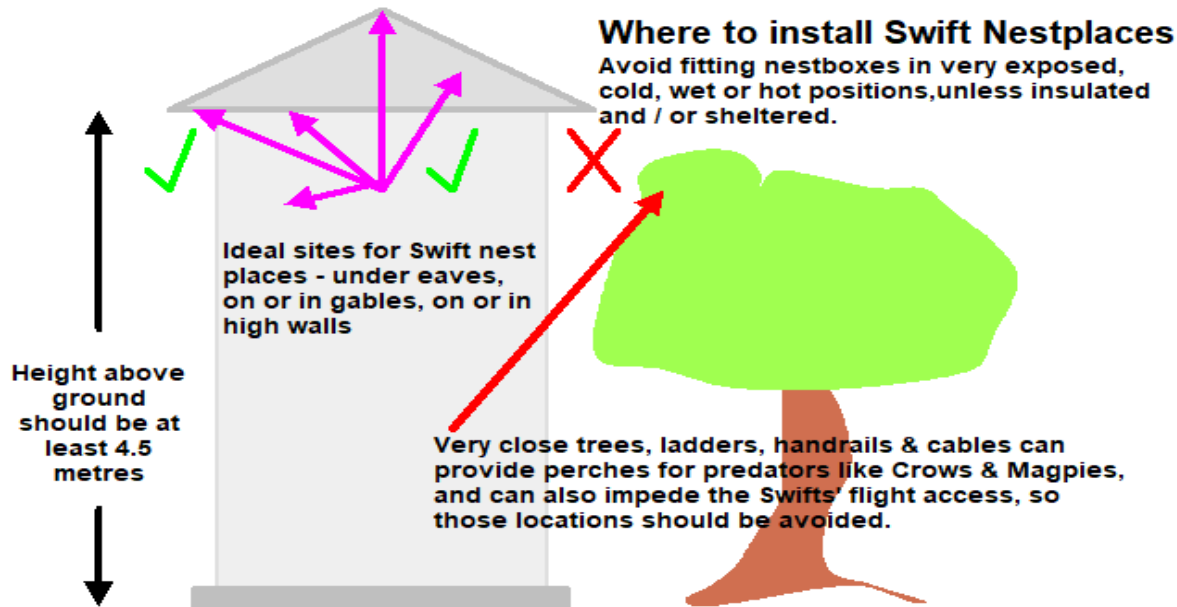
Swifts arrive back in the UK from Africa in May and their exciting calls mean that Summer is here. Nesting usually through to August or even later in buildings, in small holes in the eaves, gables or upper walls, feeding only on insects and spiders and living in cities, villages and towns, they fill the evenings with stunning aerobatic flight. They add immense excitement and life to any area. They have shared our buildings for over 2000 years, but new building techniques and materials and insulation of older buildings are preventing them from nesting. As buildings are replaced, insulated or repaired, Swifts find themselves excluded, and they are now declining fast. But we can stop this happening!

How you can help Swifts

Installing nest boxes at your home will preserve inner-city Swift populations, enhance local biodiversity. Just like flowers and trees, Swifts will make us feel happier! Creating Swift nest places is not difficult. Advice is available. Ask us and we will help you. Contact mail@swift-conservation.org

Choosing the site

Swifts like it cosy; not too hot, not too cold, not too wet and not too windy. Place nest boxes accordingly. Boxes exposed to a lot of sun, for example in Southern climates or Mediterranean countries, should be white, or shaded with a small Impeckable sunshade roof (made of white materials for this reason). All nest boxes should be sited at least 4.5 metres above ground, with clear adjacent airspace so the Swifts can access their nests in high-speed direct flight (they usually fly straight in to avoid the risk of predation). Make sure that predators (cats, crows, magpies, squirrels, and rats) do not have easy access to the nest (e.g. by climbing up creepers or flying in from nearby trees).



IMPECKABLE SWIFT NEST BOXES

Made from Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP)

Unique heat & rain resistant nestboxes with a strong record of success available and guaranteed for 50 years.

Contacts for Impeckable:

tel: +44 7554 385878

e-mail = info@impeckable.co.uk

Available in single, double and multiple nest place versions, in any RAL colour and with or without a separate sunshade (shown as a single place nest box on the right).

Opposite: the first successful Impeckable Swift nest box, fitted with a calling system and hosting a Swift family.





Quadruple and Double Impeckable nest boxes installed on private dwellings

Fitting the box

Use the corrosion-resistant fixings supplied to fix to the wall material. If you have any doubts at all about your ability to fit the box, ask a professional to do it for you. Make sure that rain cannot penetrate the rear gasket. If it can fill it with a suitable silicon building mastic.

Keeping safe

Before fixing or servicing your Swift nest box, make sure your working conditions are safe. Take special care when working at high level. Use appropriate personal protective equipment.



A Swift brings a meal home to its chicks, its mouth is stuffed with flying insects it has caught in flight: © David Moreton

Attracting the Swifts - using the Swift Calls CD & MP3

Occupation of the nest boxes can be speeded up if a recording of Swifts' attraction calls is played to prospecting birds. Recordings are available from us - see our web site's "Shopping!" page. Full instructions are supplied with the calls.

Maintenance

You usually don't need to clean out the boxes unless other species use them. Swifts nest naturally in holes and crevices, without any cleaning, but the integrity and fixing of the box needs to be assured regularly. Never remove the nest. The Swifts rely on it being there to re-use the next year.

Building on success

If your box is successful, put up some more! Swifts usually nest in colonies, and they like a few neighbours. Indeed, a busy Swift colony will be a powerful attraction to other Swifts to come in and nest.

CCTV

You may wish to fit CCTV to observe the lives of the birds. Use only wildlife-compatible cameras with infra-red lighting. They must only be fitted and adjusted outside the breeding season. If a camera fails while the birds are breeding, it should not be replaced until they have left the nest for good.

Do's & Don'ts

Do give the birds' peace and quiet and every chance to breed

Do try and keep a diary of the birds' activity

Do try and put your CCTV pictures onto the Internet so others can share them

Do check the box each winter to make sure it is still sound and firmly fixed

If a bird falls from the nest and cannot fly, consult the Swift First Aid pages of our web site

<http://www.swift-conservation.org/SwiftFirstAid.htm>

Don't disturb the Swifts at any time - they will desert the nest

Don't allow creepers or plants to encroach on the nest. They will give access to predators

Enjoy your Swifts!

If you need more advice, please contact us at mail@swift-conservation.org

Edward Mayer

www.swift-conservation.org