








Factsheet: Support a Swift



Credit: John V Philips

Swifts are a sign of summer, filling our skies with their screaming calls and circling flight. But they have declined by over 50% in the last 20 years as roof maintenance and repairs exclude them from their nest sites.

How you can help

-  **DIY** – make your own swift box using instructions from the [Swift Conservation](#) website.
-  **Buy** – Swift boxes are available in wood, woodstone and recycled plastic from various suppliers, see <https://swift-conservation.org/Shopping!.htm> for a selection.
-  **Ask** – if your business or workplace could install a swift box, Bracknell Forest Council is offering match funding on communal buildings and offices. For more information, email biodiversity@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
-  **Check** – whether there are any birds nesting if you are planning to replace gutters, soffits or your roof tiles. Swifts, House Sparrows and Starlings all nest in these areas and are all birds in decline. Provide new nesting spaces upon completion, by putting up nest boxes. Avoid doing any of this type of work between March and August.
-  **Spot a Swift** – between April and August, if you see a swift entering or leaving a house send the address, including the postcode, to: biodiversity@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Useful links

For more information on supporting swifts see the links below:

RSPB – a simple guide to identifying swifts

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/swift/

Swift Conservation – an information hub for all things swift-related

<https://swift-conservation.org/>

Action for Swifts – another great resource including the Swifts Local Network

<https://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/>



Year of the Garden 2020 is aimed at helping wildlife in our urban areas, from allotments to road verges, backyards to buildings. The project is organised by the Bracknell Forest Nature Partnership ([click here](#)) to achieve targets in the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan ([click here](#)).