

Huntly Swift Group – NES Swifts 2017 - 2025



Welcome!!

A presentation by
Cally Smith

Photo Credit: Peter Bartholomew

Who we are! What we do!

- Huntly Swift Group founded in 2017 – Protecting Swift, Swallow, House Martin and Sand Martin
- We cover the Northeast of Scotland (Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray)
- Offering free surveys, advice and guidance
- Written proposals and solutions for nest site mitigation. Residential, historic, listed, council owned and new build properties.
- A variety of mitigation & provision projects completed to date

Photo Credit: Cally Smith

... Who we are! What we do!

- Working with our local authority environmental planners on mitigation and provision of nest sites
- Engaging with local communities: presentations/fundraising/local events/school visits/including our own seasonal events list
- Annual nest box/nest cup scheme
- Sign up!! Quarterly 'Saving the Aviators' newsletter by email and our Swift Taxi Service!
- Visit our Facebook & Instagram pages!

Photo Credit: Cally Smith



General Decline

Common Swift & House Martin were Red Listed in December 2021

***Swift: 62% decline
between 1995 & 2020***
(UK Breeding population)
source BTO BBS 2021

***House Martin: 37% decline
between 1995 & 2020***
(UK Breeding population)
source BTO BBS 2021

***Swallow: 23% decline
between 1995 & 2020***
(UK Breeding population)
source BTO BBS 2021

Sand Martin: Considered stable in UK
Difficult to monitor

WHY?

- ***Climate change***
- ***Global insect decline***
- ***Loss of nesting sites***

Mitigation Project – No.30, Huntly



Credits: Cally Smith



Credit: John Stimpson Model 30



Timeline:

- ◆ **2020** Proposal for Swift protection and mitigation put forward to Huntly Development Trust by HSG - NES Swifts.
- ◆ **Sept 2021** Scaffold, Eco Wrap and temporary Swift nest boxes installed after Swifts migration to Africa. Refurbishment works commence.
- ◆ **Sept 2022** Temporary nest boxes removed from scaffold after Swifts migration to Africa.
- ◆ **April 2023** Scaffold removed ready for the returning Swifts in May!
- ◆ **April 2025** Swift webcam installed in No30 café area!

The finished build has reinstated all 7 original nesting sites along the front façade and 9 new nesting sites (1 reinstated) are built into the Deveron St elevation. HSG surveys show the Swifts are re-turning to the building as hoped!

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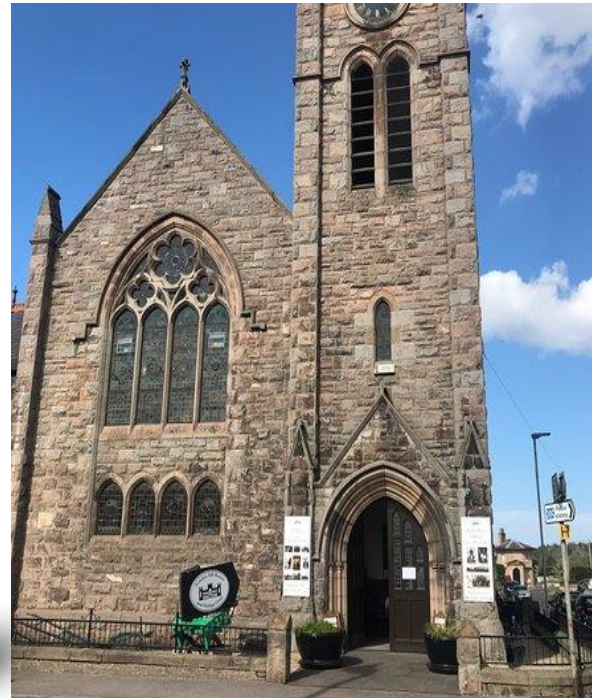
Our Church Tower Installations



Monymusk Church
August 2021 (4 nesting
chambers)



Holy Trinity Church, Keith
May 2021 (12 nesting
chambers)



Fochabers Museum
May 2021 (20 nesting
chambers)

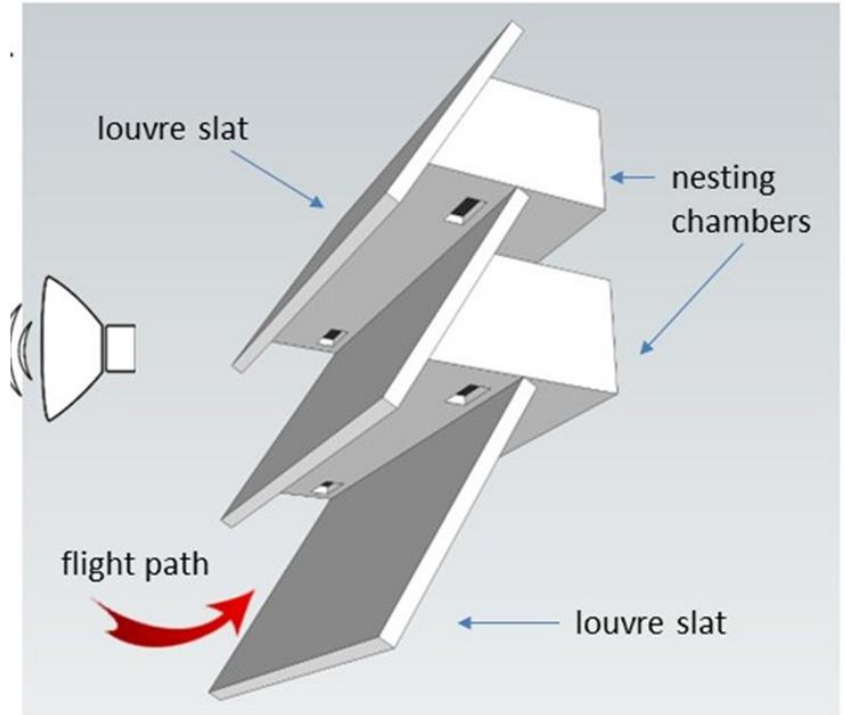


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More Church Tower Installations



West Parish Church, Inverurie
July 2023 (8 nesting
chambers)



School
Martins



Auchterless Church
April 2025 (8 nesting
chambers)



Local School Project 2018



- 2018 Solar caller used
- 2019 increased 4 to 8 boxes
- 5 nest boxes occupied since 2022
- 2023 2 x Cameras! 1 pair bred on camera
- 2024 2 pairs bred on camera
- 2025 Camera upgrade and installing APP!



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Mitigation Project – Parkmore Distillery, Dufftown

Credit: G Connell



Credit: Cally Smith



Credit: Cally Smith



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House Martin Tower

Craigievar Castle, Aberdeenshire



HM Tower: Supplied by Peak Boxes

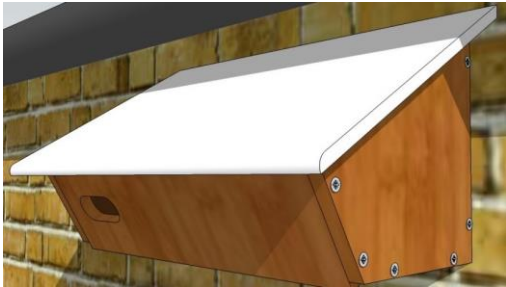


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Bricks and Boxes!

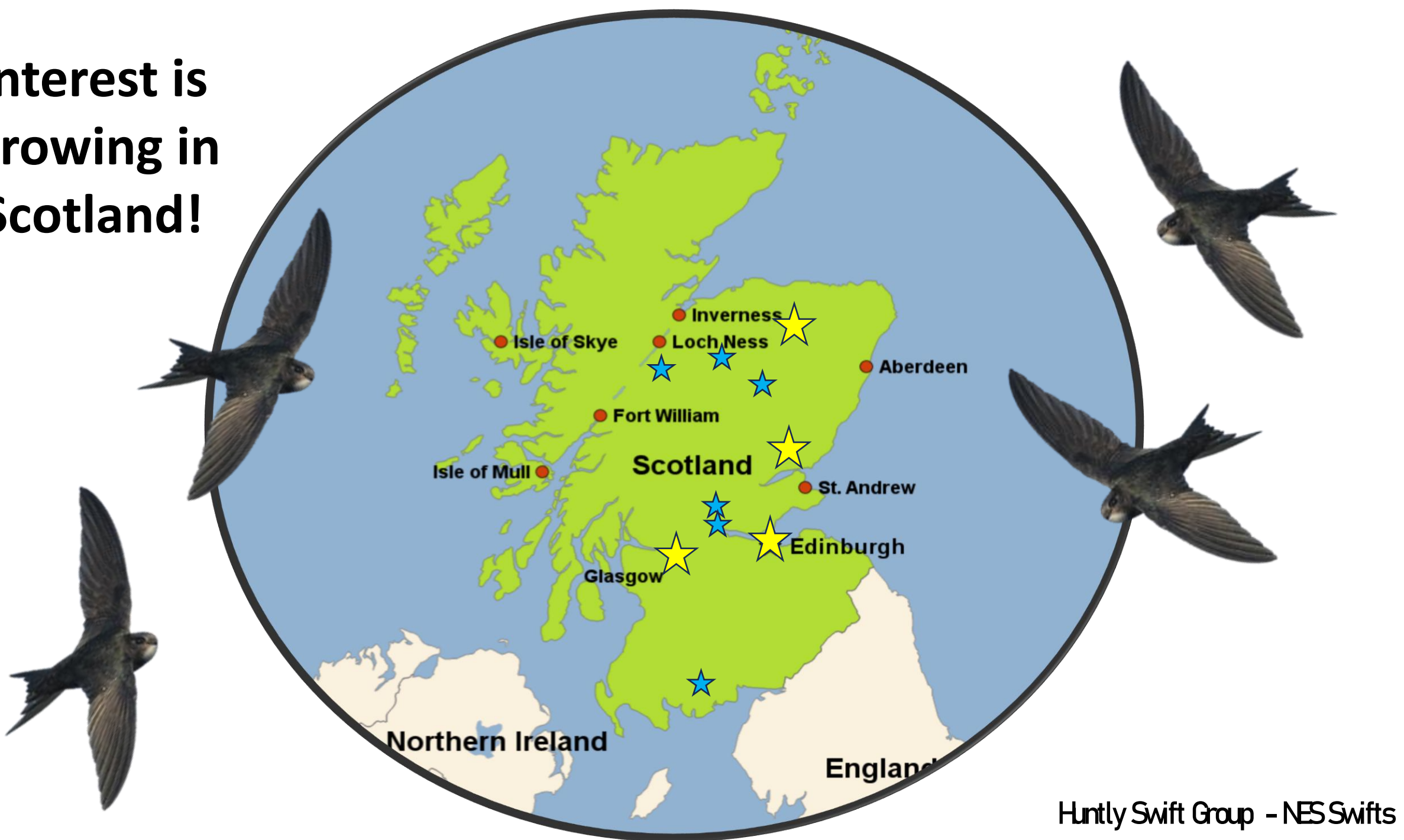


Below credit: McCall Smith Properties



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**Interest is
Growing in
Scotland!**



With thanks.....



Photo Credit: Dilomski





Thank you!

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'Saving the Aviators' emailed quarterly newsletter is available



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