



**SWIFT CONSERVATION**

KEEPING THE SKIES ALIVE

[www.swift-conservation.org](http://www.swift-conservation.org)

## How to use the Swift Calls CD

You need patience when trying to attract Swifts to a new nest place. Sometimes they respond immediately, sometimes it can take years to gain their interest.

Swifts usually look for breeding places in the area already established by another flock, so the best chance of success is when there are already Swifts breeding nearby.

These Swift calls are duets given by a breeding pair defending its nest place from other Swifts. Swifts searching for nest places are attracted by the duets to see if there might be a vacant place for them.

Swifts look for nest places during May and June for places to breed in this year; in June and July they are looking for places to breed in next year.

You can play the Swift calls CD throughout the three-month long nesting season. In the UK this is from the end of April to mid May, depending on the weather, and usually ends in August. If this is not feasible, play the CD from the beginning May to end of June, then again for the last two weeks of July, to coincide with the peaks of nest seeking activity.

Set your CD player's timer to play the calls at suitable times. This will depend to some extent on what you can tolerate, but can be from dawn for 3 to 6 hours, then from about 4pm to 6pm until it gets dark. Alternatively, play the duets from about 6.30am to 11am, the peak time for nest-seeking activity. If the weather is cold and wet, playing the duets will have no effect at all.

The loudspeakers should be as close to the boxes as possible, you can even mount them in the boxes. The volume level should be as loud as a real Swift's scream. If the call comes from inside the nest box it may be muffled. This is acceptable.

It is easy to see when the birds are looking for new nest sites. They fly directly to potential nest holes, pausing in mid-air, sometimes clinging briefly to the outer surface of the wall, or nest box then falling away into a dive.

For more about the life of the Swift, including photographs, nest box designs, and information for architects, builders, planners, and vets, see our information-packed web site.

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