

Northern Ireland Swift Survey Form 2008

(For swift recognition and information – see over)

Site Address (and Postcode if known).....

..... (Use a separate form for each site please).

| VISITS | May | June | July | additional sightings and comments e.g. any nest site observations |
|---|-----|------|------|---|
| Date (e.g. 2008 -05-22) | | | | |
| Start time (e.g. 21.00) | | | | |
| Finish time (e.g. 22.45) | | | | |
| Low-flying Swifts present? (X or ✓) | | | | |
| Screaming? (X or ✓) | | | | |
| How many swifts entered nest sites for the night? | | | | |
| | | | | |

Your name and a contact telephone number or e-mail address

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Thank you very much indeed for participating!

When complete, please post or e-mail this form this form to:
Mark Smyth, 43 Birch Hill Park, Antrim, N Ireland, BT41 1DE
Enquiries: mark@marksgardenplants.com

see over

Swift Recognition:

Swifts are very easy to identify (see below). They appear black, are fast flying and they have scimitar like swept back wings. Especially in good weather they perform screaming display flights round their territory, and close to their nest places. **Its looks like the swift version of the Red Arrows air display!** During these displays they call out excitedly to their mates in their nest-places, who then reply. These displays are most frequent in the early morning or in the evening from about 9.00pm onwards and in **good weather!**



Where and when to survey

The area to be surveyed for nest sites can be in city, town, village, or countryside. Please make at least one visit in **late May**, or in **late June**, or in **mid to late July**. If you want to do visits in all months so much the better! **The time we want you to survey is late in the evening before it gets dark as most breeding birds spend the night on the nest.**

Any additional information you have can be put in the comments boxes, or they can be used to record additional sightings.

Remember we are especially interested in identifying large colonies. If you find one and are unsure about the size we are happy to visit it with you to confirm sightings. **Contact Mark Smyth as above.**

Further information about Swifts and their needs:

You can get a lot more information about Swifts and the problems they face in our modern world (*and listen to the screams they make!*) by looking at these web sites: **www.londons-swifts.org.uk & www.actionforswifts.com/index.html**

Thank you for your help!

Finally - If you have always been interested in swifts and know of any large colonies in N. Ireland which no longer exist then please let us know. How many birds/nest sites (approximately) where in the colony? Where was it? What happened to it? When did this happen? This may help us identify the underlying population trend. **Thank you.**

Mark Smyth. Secretary, N. Ireland Swift Group.