

RSPB Swift Survey



Swallows, swifts and house martins are back, shooting across the sky over Shutford. The RSPB is conducting a citizen science project to survey swifts and their nest sites. We are contributing to this so if you have nesting swifts or know of a nest site, please record them in the phone box, email us at the Editor's email address or complete the RSPB survey online at:

<https://emisapps57.erm.com/Rspb/Home/SubmitRecord>

To record sightings we need the following:

- The site address & Postcode
- Date of observation
- Type of nest: Purpose-made 'brick box' integral to the building; Hole in roof or wall; External nest box
- Building type and age
- Whether the nest site is at risk of any kind
- Numbers of Swifts flying at roof height (often heard screaming - indicates breeding birds)
- Any nests that are not being used this season and possible reason e.g. damaged or destroyed

Identifying Swifts:

Colour - grey-brown looking black against the sky

Sythe-like wings and very fast acrobatic flight, often gliding

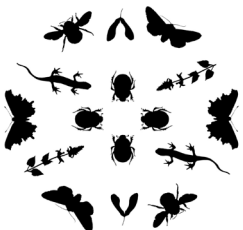
Shrill 'screaming' call, particularly when flying high in groups and low around nest sites

Local Bird Walk - 7:45 Saturday 10th June

One of Shutford's resident bird experts is Steve Holliday, who was, until recently, RSPB Midlands Regional Director, leading the Society's work across the East and West Midlands, including conservation work to halt and reverse declines in birds in the wider countryside, and managing and developing new nature reserves. Steve has kindly agreed to lead a walk to look for resident birds and a few summer migrants that visit the village each year from Africa. We need an early start!



Willow Warbler, Jim Almond



Shutford Nature Hub

Meet 7:30 at the Bus Stop to start at 7:45

Duration 1-2 hours - depending upon weather!

Bring binoculars if possible. We can't take dogs on this one.