

Why swifts are amazing!

By Eve



Migration and why they do it!



Swifts migrate because, in England we get a lack of bugs in winter and so the Swifts migrate across Africa to look for food.

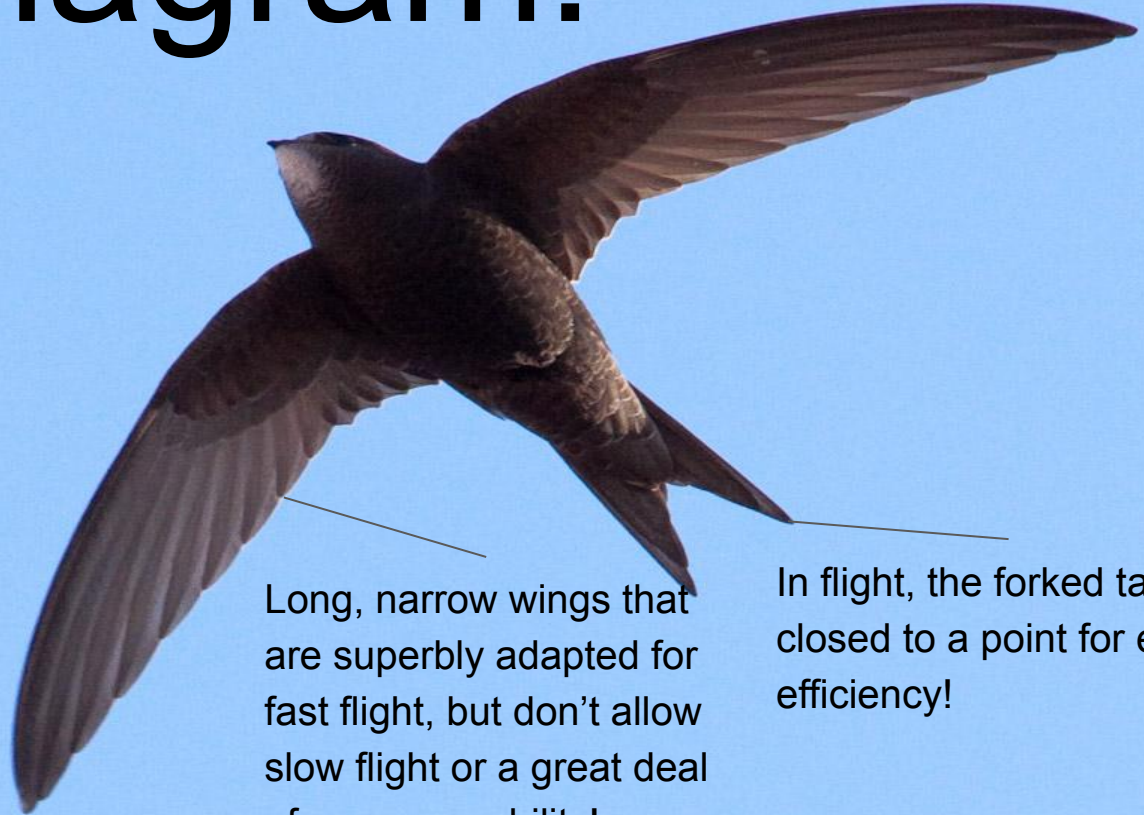
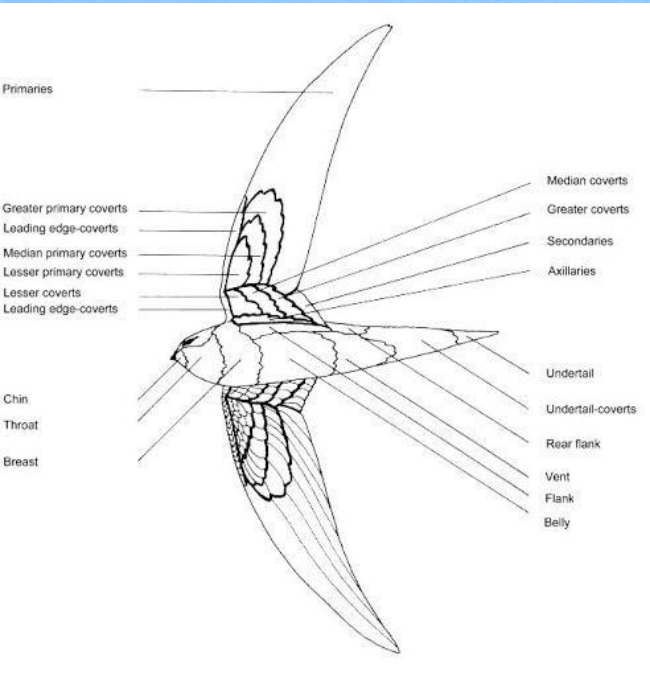
They basically follow the bugs round the world!

Their diet

Swifts' eat lots of flying insects including mosquitoes, aphids, flying ants, small beetles and hoverflies they also eat spiders!!!



Diagram!



Long, narrow wings that are superbly adapted for fast flight, but don't allow slow flight or a great deal of manoeuvrability!

In flight, the forked tail is closed to a point for extra efficiency!

Did you know?

Did you know that our swifts and its relatives form a group called the Apodidae - this is a very ancient group? That dated back to the Tertiary period (65 million years ago) or even the Cretaceous (70 million years ago)!

Did you know that they have soft beaks – but very powerful feet?

Did you know that the earliest known swift-like bird, *Priamapus lacki*, was named after David Lack who was an ornithologist?

Did you know that one bird in Oxford was found dying in 1964, 16 years after it was ringed as an adult, and therefore likely to be at least 18 years old. It's reckoned that this bird flew, in its lifetime, about 4 million miles, the same as flying to the moon and back 8 times! They normally live for 5.5 years!!!

