



Why Swifts Are Amazing





What does a Swift look like?

- Swifts are amazing aerial flying acrobatic birds. They are very fast and can turn very quickly.
- They are medium-sized with a plain sooty brown body, long narrow curved wings and a short forked tail.
- They have a pale white coloured throat.
- Swifts have tiny feet and very short legs.
- Swifts are very sociable birds and fly in groups calling to each other.
- The swift has a very high pitched sound like a squealing mouse trying to escape from a cats mouth.





Migration

- Swifts spend most of their life in the air where they eat, drink and sleep.
- Swifts only land to nest and rear their young babies.
- Some Swifts can fly for 10 months without landing - no other bird can do this.
- Swifts only spend 3 months of the year in the UK. They arrive in April and May and leave again in July, this is a shorter time than any other breeding bird.
- UK Swifts migrate to France and Spain to spend their winter in Africa south of the Sahara where the weather is warmer and there are more insects to eat.





Habitat

- Swifts nest in a lot of different places that are very high up, such as church towers and other tall buildings, trees, cliffs and nestboxes.
- They make their nest out of straw and saliva.
- Young swifts stay in the nest for 37-56 days.
- When young swifts become independent they leave the nest and set off immediately on migration.
- Swifts start their return journey from the UK in the middle of July.
- Most swifts will have arrived in Africa by the middle of August.





- Swifts do not breed until they are 4yrs old.
- This means that from when a baby swift first leaves the nest it will constantly fly in the air and not land again until the spring when it is 4yrs old.

That is why Swifts are so AMAZING!

By: Sienna

