

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND SWIFT SURVEY 2018

The survey in 2018 overall involved 482 reports made in 3 ways: -

1. Via the dedicated gmail address landrswifts@gmail.com - 81 records;
2. To NatureSpot at www.naturespot.org.uk - 169 records; and
3. Through the Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society recording system (either electronically or through the paper records system) - 232 records.

See below for this year's 4th option!

All these records are now safely lodged with the Leicestershire and Rutland Environment Records Centre. The first record of a Swift in 2018 was made on 18th April in Catmose Park, Oakham and the last record was on 10th September at Rutland Water.

Breeding records came from across the two counties with hot spots in Leicester, Market Towns (particularly Melton and Oakham) and villages such as Broughton Astley, Shepshed, Mountsorrel and Wymeswold.

Breeding records were largely from traditional sites under eaves of Victorian buildings. There were also records from Swift bricks in various places (see photo from Anstey below), there were also some from nest boxes but generally where there were choices of locations, the birds seemed to prefer: firstly being under eaves; second in bricks or similar locations, and finally in nest boxes. The best photo we had though is from a nest box - see below - a delightful shot of a young bird emerging from its box by Martin Randall and Karen Headley.



This year the partnership* would be grateful again for all breeding records to help us build up a more complete picture of where our birds are and how successfully they are breeding. They'll soon be arriving so let's hope for a good year for the Swifts - as that's generally a good year for us as well! This year there is now a 4th recording method for everyone who likes a good app. This one is dedicated to Swifts and is called Swift Mapper developed by Natural Apptitude and is available, free, from the Play Store on your Smart Phone. It collects information based on Nesting, Flying or Absence.



*The Leicestershire & Rutland Swift Partnership includes Charnwood Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Leicester University, Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust, National Forest Company