

Winchcombe Swift Support Newsletter April 2024

The Winchcombe Swift Support group had an incredibly busy 2023 with lots of activities to help raise awareness of the swift.

With your help we were able to put up another 86 boxes on many more homes plus the Library, Guide Hall, Working Men's Club, Day Care Centre and Postlip Paper Mill. The total number of swift boxes installed in Winchcombe over the last 2 years is now 207.

We also engaged with Bromford who agreed to install 100 swift bricks in the new Merrets Place development. Other smaller developments around the town also have boxes and swift brick installations planned this year. We also wrote to our local MP to encourage parliamentary debate regarding compulsory fitting of swift bricks into new builds and had a stand at the Winchcombe Green Town events.

During the summer, we attended the Winchcombe Show and held a couple of swift walks around the town, using this time to count the swifts, which is no easy task as they swoop and chase each other around! Although it seemed to be a slow start, by the end of July the swift population had grown steadily as more juveniles arrived when the weather became warmer around June, and we counted 76 swifts at the end of July. Counting swifts is not an exact science but this was the most number of swifts that we had counted in recent years and was very encouraging.

A couple of rescued swifts were also successfully treated at the Vale Wildlife Hospital, and we made a donation to this incredibly important facility of £250 earlier this year. Swifts spend all their time flying, so a grounded swift is usually in trouble. We advise anyone finding a grounded swift to carefully place it into a covered cardboard box (with some airholes) and take the swift to the Vale Wildlife Hospital as quickly as possible. Find out more about their fantastic work and how they support our wildlife [here](#). More information about how you can help a grounded swift and who to contact is on our website [Grounded Swifts - Winchcombe Swift Support Group \(e-voice.org.uk\)](http://GroundedSwifts-WinchcombeSwiftSupportGroup(e-voice.org.uk))

These past few months of Winter have flown by and thankfully the weather is slowly starting to warm up for 2024. Soon we will be welcoming the Winchcombe swifts again and hopefully some of the juveniles that have been visiting in the last couple of years will find their way into one of the new nest boxes. In past years, the first swift sightings in Winchcombe have been around 7 May, so keep a look out over the coming weeks.

This year we want to find out more about our Winchcombe swifts, whether the population has increased, how many are using the new and existing boxes. If you have a swift, or any bird, nesting in your box this year please do let us know the location so that we can add the information to our survey. Email us with your news wssgroup7@gmail.com

We have invested in some new tech this year and hope to have a live stream of some nesting swifts to share. You can view the links on our Facebook page.

If you're on Facebook, you can join and follow our page for updates. [Winchcombe Swift Support Group | Facebook](#) or visit our [website](#). Please keep in touch and email us with your news at wssgroup7@gmail.com

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