

INFLUENCE!

Inspiration and insight to change
minds and policy

19 - 20

June 2019

University of Manchester



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**Taking Swift action
to save the sound of Summer**

Liz Harris, Solent University

Swift facts

Have an average lifespan of 8 years, but one was found dead at an estimated 21 years of age.

Unable to perch or walk: cling to vertical surfaces such as walls and trees.

Migratory, only spend 3 months a year in the UK, one of the shortest of any UK breeding species.

Supreme aerialists. Fastest group of birds in level flight, recorded at 69mph. Form 'screaming parties'.

Feed, mate and sleep in the air, landing only to nest. Newly fledged Swifts will spend 2 - 4 years in constant flight before nesting.

Feed on aerial plankton, insect and spider species up to several hundred metres. Fed to chicks as a bolus.



Scaniacypselus/Apodidae
Photo property of <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/vQISvdIHAVTSIQ>



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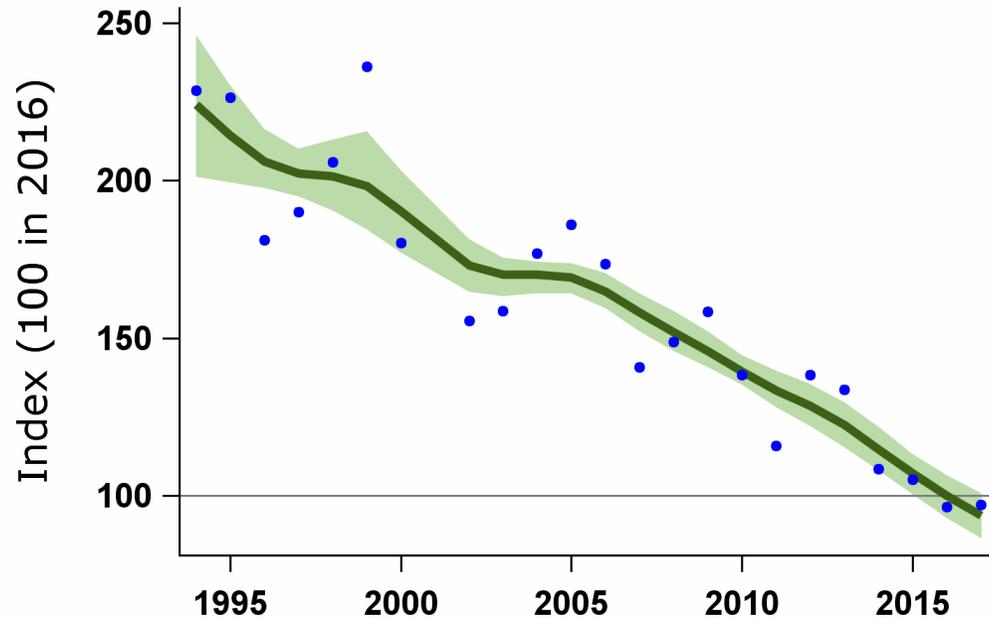
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Swift status



BBS UK 1994–2017
Swift



Woodward, I.D. et al. (2018) BirdTrends 2018: trends in numbers, breeding success and survival for UK breeding birds. Research Report 708. BTO, Thetford

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Refurbishments and missed opportunities

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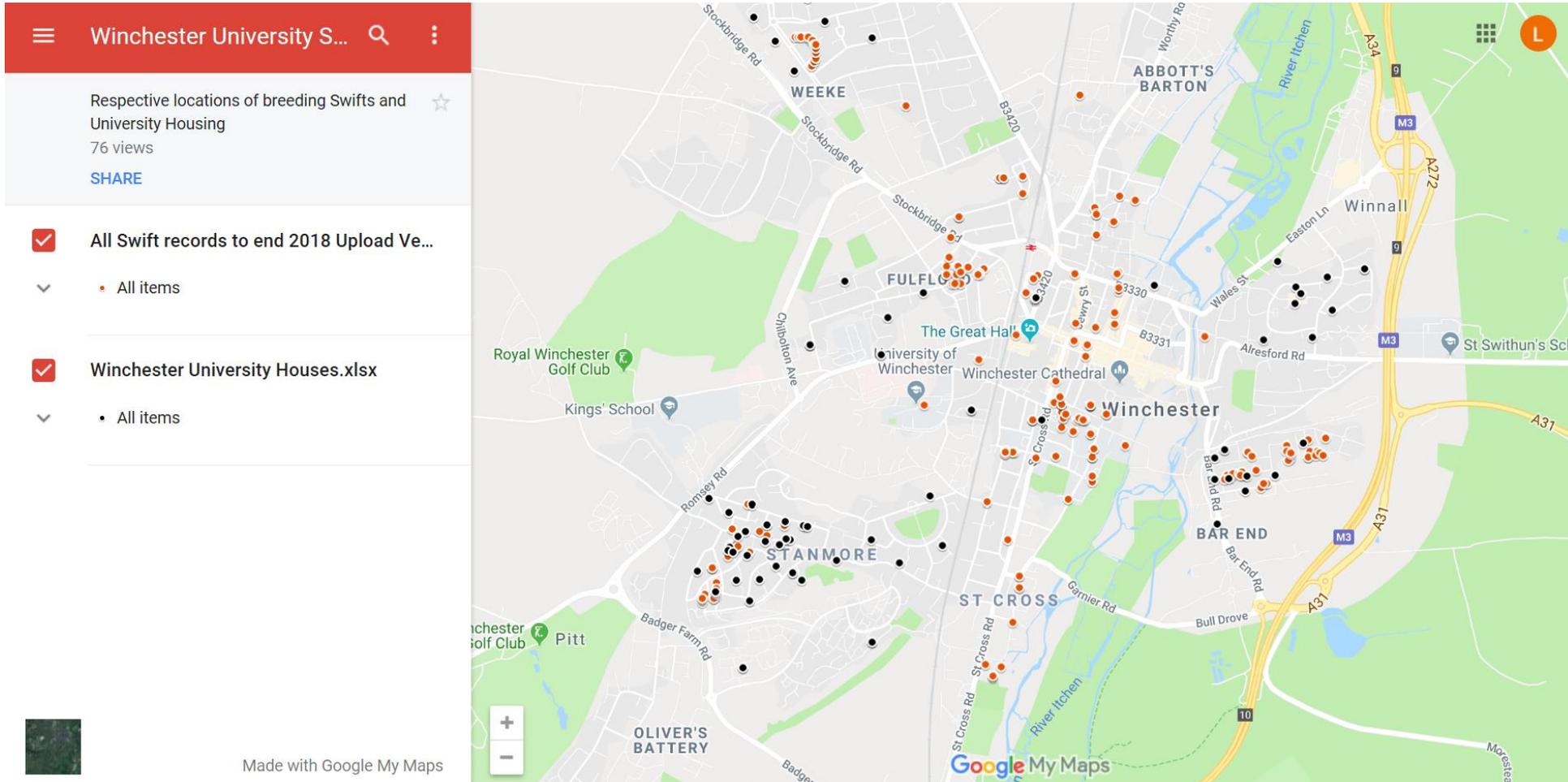


Swift survey 2018

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Swift nest box designs

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Numerous designs available.

✦ Off the shelf:

<https://gardenature.co.uk/shop/wildlife-habitats/garden-bird-boxes/swift-nest-boxes>

✦ DIY:

<http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/p/diy.html>



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- † **November 2018:** meeting at UoW with Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, HBIC), Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire Ornithological Society, UoW, Winchester College, Winchester Trust, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust, local property landlords, the survey team from Hampshire Swifts and students.
- † Presented survey findings and made polite demands!
- † Positive and encouraging proposals, including from WCC's Head of Landlord Services.
- † **December 2018:** Ten minutes with University landlords at the well-timed Winchester Landlords Forum.



DIY fun in the Uni Food Hall

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Hampshire Swifts @HampshireSwifts Following

Hugely inspiring turn out by enthusiastic and talented student volunteers at University of Winchester Swift nest box workshop. Boxes will be placed to boost Winchester's threatened Swift population..
[@Environment_UoW](#) [@winchester_hub](#) [@WinchesterCity](#)



11:37 am - 14 Feb 2019 From Winchester, England

1 Retweet 16 Likes



1 16

Winchester Hub @winchester_hub Following

Been brilliant working with [@HampshireSwifts](#) and [@Environment_UoW](#) for today's event ❤️



7:40 am - 14 Feb 2019

The Council cottons on

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NEWS

10th April

Winchester City Council make 'swift' action to save birds



By Sam Hatherley | [@HatherleySam](#)
Apprentice reporter



Winchester city councillor Jan Warwick with swift boxes

WINCHESTER City Council are to build up to 100 nesting boxes for swifts on local properties thanks to a new partnership.

The collaboration with Hampshire Swift Group will allow the council to provide the birds with much-needed nesting across the city.

The boxes will provide new nesting places for the birds as part of a large re-roofing programme being undertaken by the council in Highcliffe and Stanmore.

Contact your local experts and groups

- ✦ <https://www.swift-conservation.org/>
- ✦ <http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/>
- ✦ With thanks to Andy Broadhurst, Tim Norriss and Catherine Gale at Hampshire Swifts, Housing and Maintenance Teams at University of Winchester
- ✦ Photo credits: Andy Broadhurst, Tim Norriss, Catherine Gale, Action For Swifts, Hampshire Chronicle

