

10.)

Hein Verkade from Noordwijk/ Holland about swifts in his home town.
He started in 1992 to observe nesting sites. He discovered a very interesting change of pattern.

f.e.: in 1993 44% on eastern roof sides – because the eastern side looks to the old city, where they used to be. Every 5 years he installed one box more (without colony around, without cd). They started to occupy always on the edge.



Discussion about what swifts prefer.

Mark, N.Ireland: “The same in Ireland”, always from the edge.

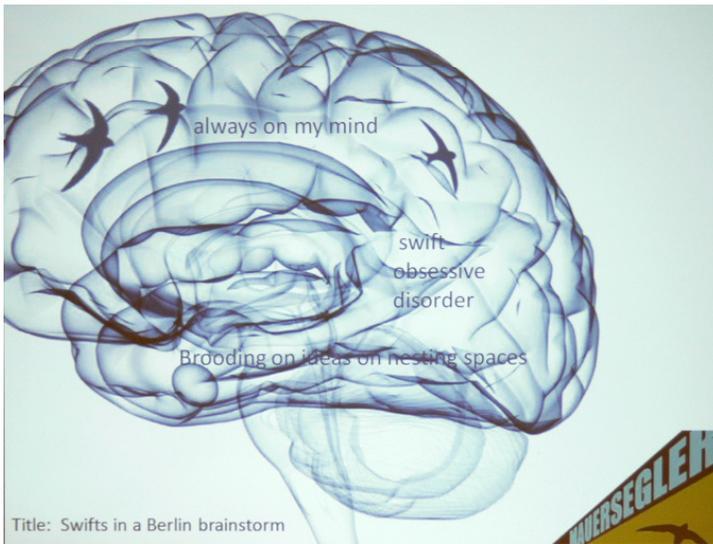
Arlet: “And the same in my school”.

Peter about a very old colony in Belfast – nearly lost because of sealing.

11.)

Evert Pellenkoff from Amsterdam about nesting sites and boxes
(here watching from rooftop in his city)





More acceptance on the cool side.
 No nestboxes taken in Amsterdam.
 Cats as predators.

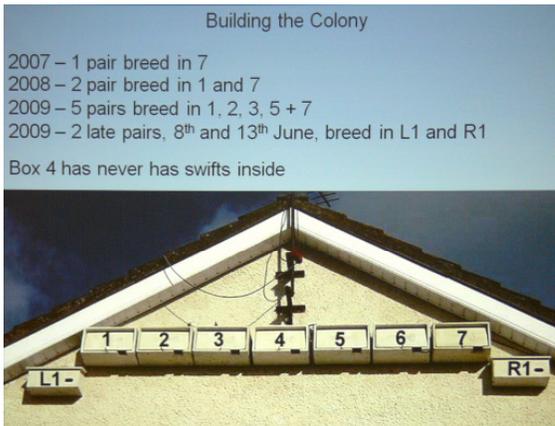
Very old colony in Anloo/ Drente and one in Roden/ Drente, each appr. 100 pairs!!

www.gierzwaluwbescherming.nl

12.)

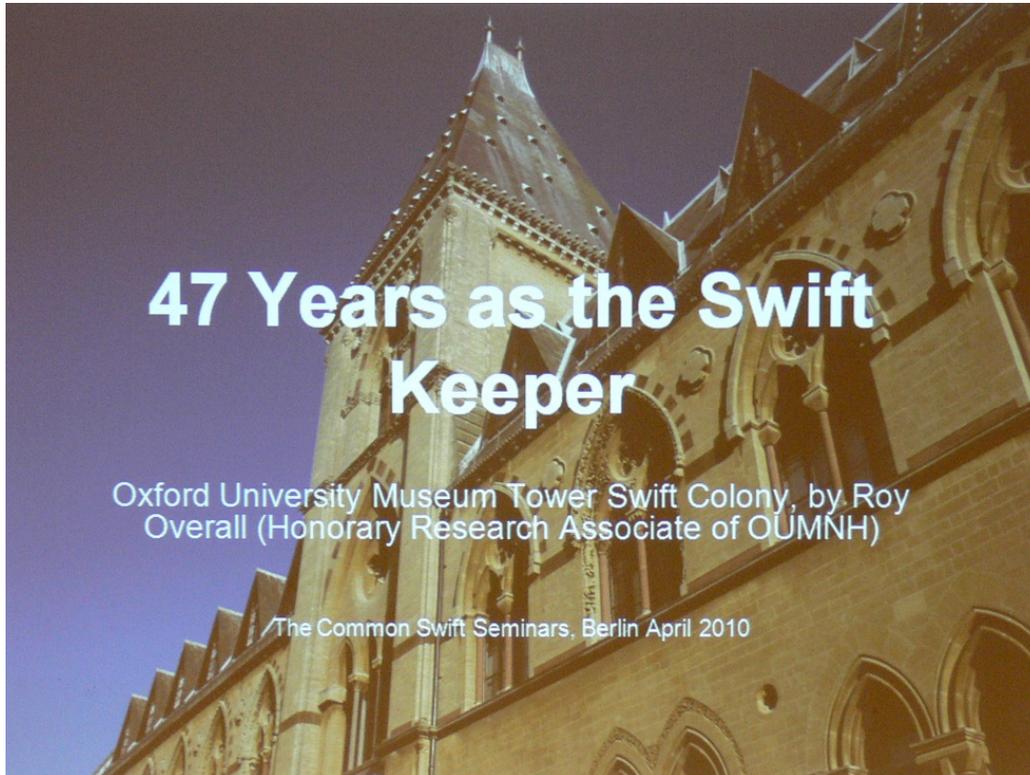
Mark Smyth from Northern Ireland about his wonderful growing colony.
 Northern Ireland Swift Group

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWmXqVwuSb4&feature=related



1.)

Roy Overall from Oxford: 47 Years as the Swift Keeper and qualified ringer.



The most experienced keeper **Roy** votes for big boxes, as big as possible so that the swifts will have enough space to exercise.

He takes care of 147 nestboxes in the tower, 70 considered occupied at the same time.

Also he discovered the insects in football are not dead at all.



Discussion....

Ulrich: Ringing has to be better coordinated.

Hein: After destruction of nesting sites they won't breed the next year. Always different, perhaps the nest concave makes the difference. That's a good argument to put a concave in.

2.)

Dr. Mauro Ferri from Modena/ Italy about Fidelity to the Birthplace.

Many different kinds of nestboxes in Italy. Pine Swifts in Turin and also in Milano (stadium).



3.)

Erich Kaiser from Kronberg, Taunus/ Germany

Over 40 years experience, currently 47 pairs in one house.

He votes for artificial nests (concaves) because swifts probably need one year to build a nest. These can be from cork or wood. Then sometimes they lay an egg without additional nest material. They also tolerate to have a rather long way to the entrance. Four eggs can possible Erich provides small light (from electric railway) above the nests and air condition in his colony which works at 35 celsius.

Swifts do press ups to check their weight.

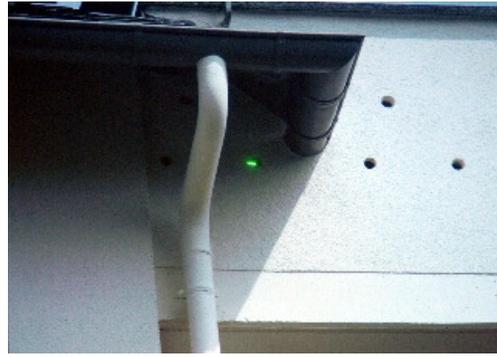
Feathers are not waterproof. (Dust Swifts in Argentina are)

They have feathers and muscles to protect their eyes!

Handraised birds came back from Africa.

www.mauersegler.klausroggel.de/frame-kaiser.html





Discussion

Oldest bird was 17 years old. Offers only two free entrances, after occupation opens the next. Because of controlling heat there are no heat problems.

Mark says they fledge in dusk because of preventing predators. 33 grams means healthy weight, lighter ones have more comfortability in good weather.

Erich offers drone brood, then she feeds it to the young. Drones fly on higher level, so they can catch the ones without sting.

Votes for artificial nests. Uses vacuum cleaner for the nestboxes. No pesticides at all. (Pyrethrum). Louseflies are spreaded through bangers.

Question about the harm of louseflies.

Lots of louseflies – good weather. 50 per nest is no problem in good weather.

Peter: “excellent approach by **Erich Kaiser**”.

4.)

Prof. Dr. Levent Turan, Turkey



- No ornithological tradition;
- Nobody feed them;
- Nobody hang up nest boxes or creates shelter for them

The population density of this species is higher than the other three swift species. Individuals of Common Swift species are widely found in the whole country.

It is a summer visitor and partially migrant in Turkey. Also, they go through Turkey at the time of north-south and south-north migration.

Generally it comes to Turkey in March and leaves the country between September and November in autumn.

Discussion

Ulrich cannot believe the long stay in Turkey. Wants some proofs (the same to Spain)

Miguel : Stay not as scheduled as in other northern countries. Chicks all year long.

Ulrich doesn't believe.

Miguel: Good weather, lots of insects, plenty of rain in April.

Gillian offers some figures.

Peter: Might be birds only being around, not breeding.

Miguel: Should be examined, especially because he (Levant) says they are breeding for months.

5.)

Lyndon Kearsley /England/ Belgium about geolocators and tracking commonswifts



They are waiting for technology to track migrants. Satellite tracking is considered to be good, effective, but expensive.

They discovered arial plankton in heights of 4000 meters which provides food for swifts.

Question: Does logger affect breeding?

Answer: No evidence.

- How can birds be tracked?
 - Visual observations
 - Radar
 - Conventional ringing
 - Colour ringing – rings read through telescopes in the field, either colour coded or engraved
 - Radio frequency tags transmitting a signal
 - Argos satellite fixing the position of a satellite tag
 - Geolocators: logging the time of sunrise and sunset and storing this for collection after re-trapping
 - GPS loggers logging gps fixes for later data collection
 - Cell phone loggers – need a cell phone system

The Common Swift Seminars, Berlin 10 April 2010

- Why track swifts (or any other species)?
 - to gain knowledge of their full life cycle.
 - to locate possible key factors affecting their well being
- What do we know about swifts between September and April?
 - They migrate to Africa – and that's about it...
- Are swifts adapted to breeding or feeding?
 - Swifts are adapted to flying and feeding on the wing – but are they adapted to human habitations?
- What are their origin?
 - 96 species of swifts and tree swifts, mostly tropical in distribution.
 - most are very specialised with limited range – radical wing and leg adaptation – able to go into torpor – use saliva to build nests
- Why then is the common swift so successful and so widespread

The Common Swift Seminars, Berlin 10 April 2010

- All swift studies are more or less intrusive.
- Geolocators probably more than others.
- Since one cannot know what to expect beforehand what steps have been taken to mitigate the problem and ensure that the behavior and results of the investigation are not biased?

6.)
Dr. Mauro Ferri from Modena/ Italy about Italian Historic Swift Towers



let me introduce the
THE CASTELLARO SWIFT TOWER

The Castellaro Swift Tower
 since XIV Cent.

Lat. 44,388741 Long. 10,950290

- Defense tower in his first life
- Dovecote and ST, till mid XIX Cent.
- Rehabilitated as ST in 1985 (Ferri, Scorzoni)
(many thanks to dr. avv. Maurizio Ferrari Family)
- Restored, the best HST in the Regional Park of Sassi di Roccamalatina (ER Region) (joint venture: Regional Park and Ferrari Family)

Allegro di Rubino, Rocchi

The Common Swift Seminars - Berlin 8th - 11th April 2010 - Mauro Ferri: Italian historic Swift Towers

the <holes> ?
 also squared
 both in bricks
 and stones

dovecote
 Appennines Mou

The Common Swift Seminars - Berlin 8th - 11th April 2010 - Mauro F

Lazzaro Spallanzani
 1729- 1799

Abbot
 Professor
 Scientist
 Traveller

The Common Swift Seminars - Berlin 8th - 11th April 2010 - Mauro Ferri: Lazzaro Spallanzani and the CS

Formerly, people ate swifts – because birds that fly are especially good.

They did it in a sustainable way. Could get hold on them from inside doors.

CLOSE TO FLORENCE

The Common Swift Seminars - Berlin 8th - 11th April 2010 - Mauro Ferri: Italian historic Swift Towers

1985 – ST rehabilitated

2003 - wireless and restored

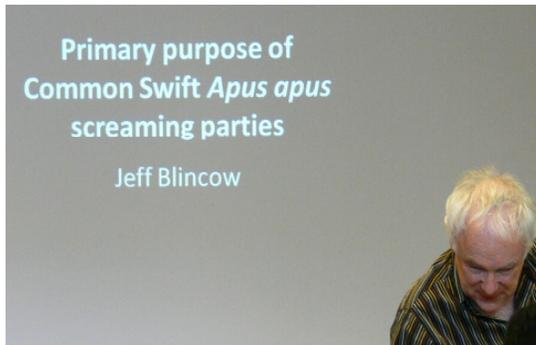
The Common Swift Seminars - Berlin 8th - 11th April 2010 - Mauro Ferri: Italian historic Swift Towers

Bridge in Pavia is mentioned which is full of swifts.

7.)

Edward Mayer about Swifts screaming parties by **Jeff Blincow**

<http://www.northamptonshirewildlife.co.uk/swifts/nswiftind.htm>

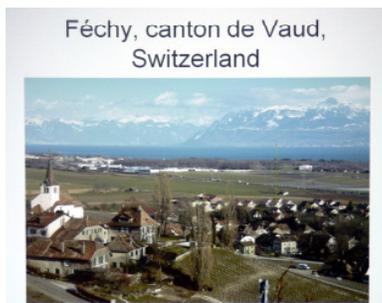


jblincow@hotmail.com

Some different opinions about the theory.
Different observations by **Erich Kaiser**.

8.)

Marcel Jacquat, Féchy/ Switzerland about Behaviour of non breeders by **Bernard Genton**



Féchy, canton de Vaud,
Switzerland



Colonie du Jordil, Féchy



Colonie du Jordil, Féchy, E



Colonie du Jordil, Féchy, E



Effleureurs = « skimmers »

