

9.)
Dick Newell about ideas on nestboxes

He presents lots of ideas. They even nest in pipes!



Edward Mayer then talks about the Biodiversity Plan at the London Olympics 2010 and along with that their wonderful idea of building a swift tower.
He presents different kinds of competition ideas for the tower and we make a little poll.
Two of our attendees (one of them was me by the way) vote for “the birdhouse”, which, sure enough, was the winner in London.

Swift Towers
The London Olympics 2012
Swift Tower Competition

Dick Newell & Edward Mayer



SWIFT CONSERVATION
KEEPING THE SKIES ALIVE

Olympic Biodiversity Plan

- 1.8 hectares of reedbeds suitable for roosting and breeding birds, otters and water voles
- 3 hectares of species-rich grassland suitable for invertebrates, Flower beetles, ground bugs and bees
- 5 hectares of brownfield habitats including log walls, stone-filled baskets and native tall herbs suitable for lizards, birds, moths and linnets
- 10 hectares of broadleaved woodland and hedgerows
- 0.9 hectares of wet woodland – a rare habitat type for amphibians, snakes and birds
- 4,000 m² of ‘living roof’ space for birds and rare insects
- 4 new ponds, at least 50m² in size - two of which will be designed for breeding amphibians
- 4 sites for common lizards with quiet, sunny, south-facing slopes near woodland or rich grasslands
- 4 wetland and grassland habitats that can act as egg-laying sites for grass snakes

But, which one???

Our selection criteria...

- Good for breeding Swifts
 - Safe
- Strong with a long life
 - Good looking
- A practical example for others
 - Easy to maintain & repair

The Winner!
Why?

- **Robust concrete design**
- **Met Swifts' needs fully**
- **Simple concept with few risks**
- **Fully detailed interior**
- **Easy to build**
- **Unlikely to go over budget**
- **Vandal / fire proof**
- **Charismatic & amusing design**
- **Resonates with the Olympic logo**



birdhouse takes flight

Keep your fingers crossed!
Let's hope it gets built!

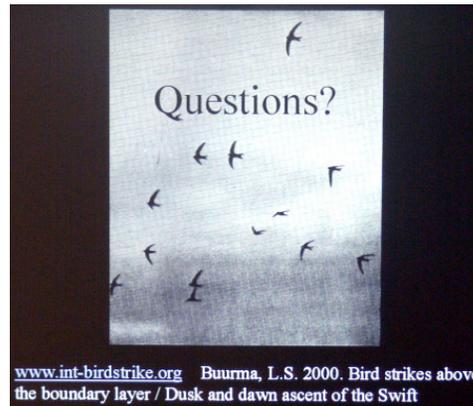
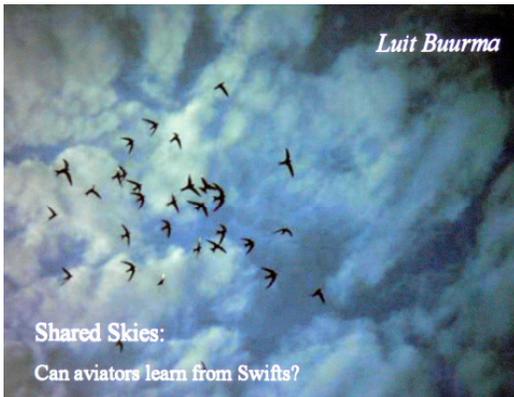


SWIFT CONSERVATION
KEEPING THE SKIES ALIVE

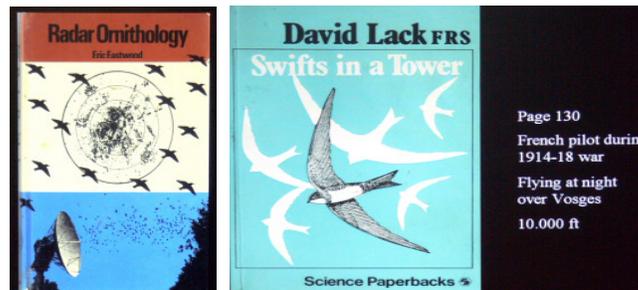
10.)

Luit Buurma from Holland about Shared Skies – swifts at night.
His research with radar and results.

www.int-birdstrike.org



Luit's literature reference:



11.)

Amnonn Hahn, Tel Aviv/ Israel about his activities and impressive engagement for swifts in his homecountry, also launching a World Wide Swift Campaign.

www.sisimlive.com

Some keywords of his speech:
Swifts, mentioned in Jeremia
"Devils"

David Attenborough

Found himself within swifts when paragliding

Tel Aviv founded in 1909

Bauhaus buildings in Israel, prevalent in Tel Aviv

"The White City Program"

Award from the Ford Foundation





Different creative examples for nestboxes on public locations:



Old ammunition boxes used as swift nesting sites on Katzenelson School.



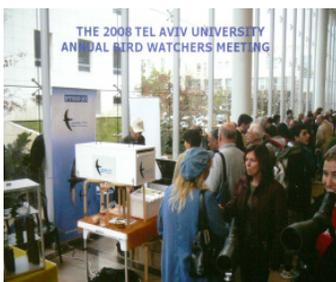
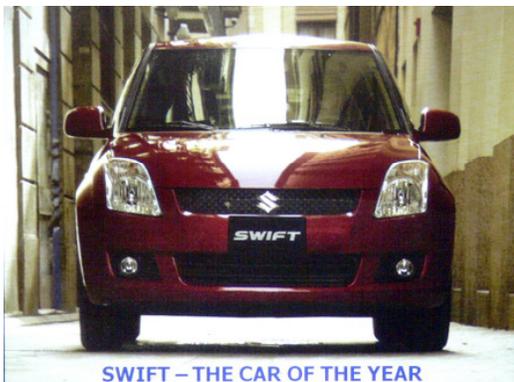
Swift Tower built by a famous artist and advertising campaign on public buses, Tel Aviv.



“Public awareness is the most important thing.”



A car called swift – and an amazing program.



THE CHALLENGE
 RAISING THE AWARENESS FOR THE SWIFTS
 AND THEIR FLIGHT
 AND ENCOURAGE ACTIVISM



THE STRATEGY
 GETTING PEOPLE TO CONNECT TO THE
 LIFE OF THE COMMON SWIFT

CREATIVE SOLUTION
 Physical layer:
 We created outdoor installation - huge
 interactive nests with viewing facilities in
 central locations that allow people to interact
 with the swifts. The nest itself with it's unique
 design empowers the idea of urban nature,
 which reinforces the swift's positioning as a
 unique urban bird.

CREATIVE SOLUTION
 Digital layer:
 Where the physical acts as an actual proof to
 the problem, the digital platform brings to life the
 swift experience with a Live Camera on a mini
 site, which broadcasts live video from the nest. In
 order to keep peoples' attention we asked them
 to register via their mobile phones with specific
 SMS Swift number in order to get the hottest
 reports as they happen.

CREATIVE SOLUTION
 PR layer:
 Connecting to major influential media outlets-
 National Geographic channel and major portals.
 Also we supported the urban idea with transit
 advertising.

**TIME FOR A WORLWIDE
 SWIFT CAMPAIGN**

- 1) A SWIFT STEERING GROUP
- 2) AN INTL. ADVERTISING COMPANY
- 3) A WORLDWIDE SPONSORSHIP

Sunday, April 11th

1.)
Edward about working with landowners, governments, architects, developers, big business, housing providers.
 For the sake of long term success, he votes for more work with institutions, not so much with private persons; only on request. F.e. Marks and Spencer wanted a nestbox program along with their refurbishings.

Where?

- Public Housing
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Industrial Buildings
- Libraries
- Churches
- Bridges

Antrim Public Library showing installation of Ibstock Swift Bricks

Why?

- Local pressure
- Government Biodiversity Policy requirements
- Business "Green Policy" aims
- Good Publicity
- Because someone involved loves Swifts

Aylesbury District Council installs free Swift nest boxes where privately-owned roofs are being converted or insulated

Many examples of installed nestingsites, be it a hotel, supermarket, public house near Cambridge, a sports center in London, a government office in Scotland, a school or a bridge.

The advantages of working with institutions...

Ideally, but not always...

- Longevity – nest boxes should be in place for many years
- Responsibility – managers will protect the birds
- Commitment – the organisation will feel “ownership”

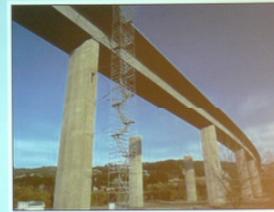
And...

Computerised Building Management Systems can specify regular planned maintenance and monitoring



A Retirement Home in Aylesbury, with Swift nests built in to the eaves

Examples... a bridge in Catalunya



This road bridge outside Barcelona is being fitted with nest boxes for Swifts and Alpine Swifts
This was a Catalan, Swiss and UK effort, working with the local road development authority

“Cleaning not necessary.”

Discussion about cleaning.

Rose-Marie: question about probable strangulation of swifts by plastic fiber. Some photos are shown by Viktor. Keep in mind, in former centuries there wasn't any plastic material in the environment! - other impacts, for example light, laser?

Rose-Marie: question about laser impact. **Lyndon** says, there is some research, not finished yet. **Susanne** offers to send me some results. **Ingolf** says, in Hessen, Laser is forbidden during crane migration time.

2.)

Edward about Swifts and the Law in Europe and the UK

In Alcudia, Spain nestboxes were erected after destruction of nesting sites during renovation.

Edward: “A minority of one is a mad man. A minority of two is a political party.”

Europe – The EU Birds Directive

- Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds creates a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the Union.
- It was adopted unanimously by the Member States in 1979 as a response to increasing concern about the declines in Europe's wild bird populations resulting from pollution, loss of habitats as well as unsustainable use. It was also in recognition that wild birds, many of which are migratory, are a shared heritage of the Member States and that their effective conservation required international co-operation.
- The directive recognises that habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the conservation of wild birds. It therefore places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered as well as migratory species, especially through the establishment of a coherent network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) comprising all the most suitable territories for these species. Since 1994 all SPAs form an integral part of the NATURA 2000 ecological network.
- The Birds Directive bans activities that directly threaten birds, such as the deliberate killing or capture of birds, the destruction of their nests and taking of their eggs, and associated activities such as trading in live or dead birds, with a few exceptions.
- The Directive recognises hunting as a legitimate activity and provides a comprehensive system for the management of hunting to ensure that this practice is sustainable.
- This includes a requirement to ensure that birds are not hunted during the periods of their greatest vulnerability, such as the return migration to the nesting areas, reproduction and the raising of chicks. It requires Member States to outlaw all forms of non-selective and large scale killing of birds.
- It promotes research to underpin the protection, management and use of all species of birds covered by the Directive.

The institutional response

- The Police & other Government Agencies are highly unlikely to take any action to protect Swifts unless they are obliged to by public action.
- So Citizens have to take the lead in protecting Swifts and all other birds too.
- This may fail where big commercial interests and corruption are prevalent.
- **But it can work and has to be attempted!**

Europe -The EU Habitats Directive

- The Habitats Directive together with the Birds Directive forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the “Natura 2000” network of protected sites and the strict system of species protection. The Directive protects over 1,000 animal and plant species and over 200 “habitat types” (e.g. special types of forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.), which are of European importance.
- **The Directive does not preserve wild creatures' habitats where these are shared with humans, as in buildings.**
- **It is useless for the protection of Swifts!**

Edward: Governments should provide nestboxes for free like in Leuven, Belgium.
 Imagine people could be paid 20 euros p.a. for each occupied house martin nest!
Evert: Swift nests are protected in winter too. Developers have to make a nature report.

Direct Action

- Copy “Green” demonstrators – they get results!
- Posters. Demonstrations. Leaflets
- You need People – the more the better
- You need Legal Advice *beforehand*
- You need to *Know Your Rights* on the day
- Your Aims – to *Embarrass, Shame and Convert* the opposition
- NOT to make them hostile, aggressive or cruel!
- It *can* work!

Conclusions

- *How can the laws be made to work better?*
- Use them! Improve them!
- Press Police, Government, Green and Bird Protection organisations to use the laws
- Lobby politicians all the time – keep up the pressure to improve Swift protection – we won’t go away!
- Make Swift nest place destruction socially & morally unacceptable

3.)
Marcel about the law in Switzerland.

4.)
John about Scottish laws.

5.)
Levent about Turkey’s environmental protection.

LAST WORDS Needs & What to do

- Turkey already has in place many elements required for the efficient implementation of environmental policies, regulations and standards.
- There is already a set of legislative measures that fully recognise the principles for environmental management.
- However, there is a lack of enforcement capability. Fines and penalties for non-compliance with environmental regulations would need to be revised in order to have some effectiveness.

- There is a need to strengthen the network of experts, scientists and NGOs dealing with flora and fauna in order to conduct the inventory of endangered species and publish a “red list” of threatened species (as ERL).
- There is a need for greater cooperation and partnership among ministries and relevant institutions responsible for nature conservation

6.)
Lukas about legislation in Czech Republic

“This year is
 The International Year Of Biodiversity”

Poster:
 “Don’t be afraid to live with swifts in one house”



7.)

Martine Wauters from Brussels gives an address to the audience about Belgium's (non)-enforcement of law, about tree shopping and planting trees. In Leuven government gives nestboxes for free.

The following **discussion** is about laws and their enforcement. There are lots of bad experiences, some good with enforcement.

Gillian gives the urgent advice to go and get a case number. Others agree that this can be very useful.

8.)

Dr. Susanne Salinger from Berlin (BUND) gives a speech about law. She talks about the installation of an emergency telephone line on nesting sites since otherwise you cannot manage it because of the size of Berlin.

9.)

Miguel from Madrid (many years of environmental consultant) about laws in Spain. He talks about

Good police system for enforcing

Good networks of nature groups

The most numerous illegal actions in Spain

Net of rehab centers/ every state their own, they are connected – how do they work?

1. official centers – allow voluntary work.
2. professional centers – paid company, no volunteers.
3. charities – working with government.

Money comes from taxes, companies and compensation measures.

End of Seminars Sunday, April 11th 2pm



Dear Swift Friends

this protocol I did as good as possible. In case that you will have anything to contribute or to correct please inform the participants by email.

All the photos taken and included are exclusively used in this very document, in order to make the report a little more detailed and inspiring.

Take care
Rose-Marie

Hannover/ Germany

romamail52@yahoo.de

