

The Swift Seminars –TRIESTE 2024
Katherine DUBOURG - TOULON
ASSOCIATION MARTINETS D'ICI ET D'AILLEURS

Title : Swift conservation in Toulon, France

I would like to present the work on the protection of swift nests I do in Toulon, since 2015, and the good results obtained thanks to collaboration with the town hall during urban renovation works. Toulon is located in the south of France in the southwest of the Var on the Mediterranean coast, halfway between Marseille in the west and the city of Nice in the east.

There are three species of swifts present on mediterranean coast and in Toulon during the nesting period: Common swift (*A. apus*), Pallid swift (*A. pallidus*) and Alpine swift (*A. melba*).

Each year, a local voluntary group identifies the nesting sites of swifts in the buildings, takes photos and records all the nests in an excel spreadsheet, for the town planning department, architects and construction companies.

To date, there are not less than 1 600 nests of Common swifts and not less than 1000 nest of Pallid swifts, recorded in the buildings. The census show that Common swifts are nesting in all the city, Pallid swifts mainly on military sites (Arsenal, Naval Base), Alpine swifts in the cliffs of Mont Faron and along the coast (not in town).

Since 2015, I have followed nearly 80 building sites.

Diligent work with the companies has made it possible to maintain 180 historical cavities in old buildings and to integrate 1500 wooden concrete nest boxes in the façade walls in several “écoquartiers”.

In July 2023, a living mural representing a large silhouette of swift composed by 61 nest boxes was inaugurated. It is located on a wall of the Var Prefecture in Toulon. A fantastic operation to raise awareness of urban biodiversity and swifts become emblematic.

In order to promote all this work, I created in April 2023, the association :MARTINETS D'ICI ET D'AILLEURS : <https://sites.google.com/view/martinetsdicietdailleurs/> open to all swift fans and also construction professionals.

K. DUBOURG – Le Sévigné B1 – 946 Bd du Dr Félix Escudier – 83000 TOULON