The case of the restoration of St. Stefano's Church in Assisi, a nesting site of the Common swift (*Apus apus*)

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What is the status of the Common Swift (*Apus apus*) colonies in Assisi, the birthplace of Francesco, the patron saint of ecology? Starting from this question, and having taken up the appeal by the *Monumenti Vivi* association and other Italian conservation groups on the threat represented by the start of thousands of building renovation and restoration projects

throughout the country, as a result of the tax bonuses promoted by the Government, the first *Citizen Science* census of breeding sites in the *seraphica civitas* began in Spring of 2022. Critical issues, also related to pigeon control, did not take long to arise, as well as emergencies. The presentation recounts the discovery of the beautiful colony at St. Stefano's Church and what measures taken to protect it, both during the work and in the subsequent phases. In fact, the small religious building, dates back to the early 12th century, a treasure trove of biodiversity, would soon undergo restoration and conservative works with a complete renovation of the roof for seismic improvement.

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