

Title: Common Swift and Pallid Swift Conservation in Iran using citizen science

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We have four species of swifts in Iran, including the Alpine Swift, Common Swift, Pallid Swift, and Little Swift. Among them, Common Swift and Pallid Swift inhabit cities. Common Swift has a much wider range than Pallid Swift, which is restricted to the coastal bands of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. Since there was no national information about the population size of these two swifts, we initiated a voluntary project to monitor the Common Swift in Tehran, the capital, and other cities, as well as the Pallid Swift in Bushehr, since 2020. The aim is constant monitoring of these two species using citizen science, studying their phenology, increasing public awareness about Common Swift and Pallid Swifts as they are part of urban ecology, and encouraging people to conserve them. Additionally, we host several free virtual public educational meetings and free physical classes for students. Moreover, we educate people on how to rehabilitate swifts by creating videos, educational blogs, and providing assistance for their release. During March and throughout the spring of 2024, we plan to conduct systematic counting in Tehran, engage more people in monitoring efforts, install some experimental nest boxes, and visit colonies of the Alpine Swift and Little Swift in the mountains to gather more information, as we currently know very little about them.