

SOS Swift - Status of the campaign in Denmark 2017 - 2023

Jesper Toft, mursejlerne.dk

The number of breeding Swifts in Denmark has become fewer and fewer over the years. This meant that it was *redlisted as near threatened* in 2023. As no one took much notice of it, I started the campaign SOS swift in 2017 with the aim both to raise awareness of Swifts, the threats against them and how to help them and to protect and increase the number of nesting sites with build-in and external nestboxes.

1. Awareness: The first step in 2017 was to launch a *website* as the basis for the campaign. The next step in 2018 was to start of a *group on Facebook* in order to share experiences with other interested parties. The pamphlet *Construction and Swifts* from 2019 was a response to the increasing need for more knowledge. In 2022 and 2023, two informative leaflets were launched with facts about the swift and first Aid to Swifts found on the ground and in 2023 a pamphlet *Churches and Swifts* were launched. In 2023 linked-in.

2. Protect and increase the number of nesting sites: In 2019 start of or facilitation with the set up of *nestboxes* primarely on schools, in churches, on housing associations (pensions funds), companies etc. together with a protection of some existing nests.

3. Results. - The first *municipality certified* as swift friendly in 2021: Will protect existing nesting sites and create new nesting sites for Swifts. - A fruitful *dialogue with the Danish EPA* about the legislation where nest is protected all year round. - Set up of more than *1.800 nestboxes at nearly 200 locations* some as compensation for lost nests - Support from local fire brigades or with special lift car hire offer. - *Construction and Swifts* has become a keystone in the campaign and Construction companies now seeks advice.

4. Challenges. - *Monitoring:* Occupancy rate positive if a nest box is a replacement for an existing nests, rate if a nest box is placed in a new location is unclear. - *Further funding.*

References: Internet: <https://mursejlerne.dk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/385052545342698>
(p.t. 1.407 members)