

## **7th International Swift Conference, Trieste 2024**

### **Project “*Living Buildings*”**

#### **7 years of Citizen Science for the study and protection of colonies of the Common swift (*Apus apus*) in the city of Parma – Italy**

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“*Living Buildings*” is a multi-year *Citizen Science* project, started in 2018 and still ongoing, aimed at identifying and studying colonies of swifts (*Apus apus*) nesting in the historic centre of Parma and functional at their conservation.

Over the course of 7 years, we have identified 55 colonies, recorded more than 5.000 events (sum of swift entries and exits from the nesting cavities) and produced dozens of maps of the breeding sites.

In the present work we summarize the data collected on the cavities occupied by Common swifts for breeding purposes and the intensity of nest access in 2 historic buildings in Parma, using 3 graphic summaries:

1. Map of nesting in restored putlog holes using the selective reduction technique (Church of San Francesco).
2. Map of nesting under the roof tiles curved restored by maintaining free access to those in the first row (Oratory of the Church of San Francesco).
3. Cumulative trend of recorded events (entries and exits in the restricted putlog holes) starting from dawn, for 2.5 hours, on 4 different dates in May and June (Church of San Francesco).

The results of the investigations have provided evidence of the successful reproduction of swifts in the studied buildings and a marked increase in the use of nest cavities at the end of June during the first 60 minutes starting from dawn.