

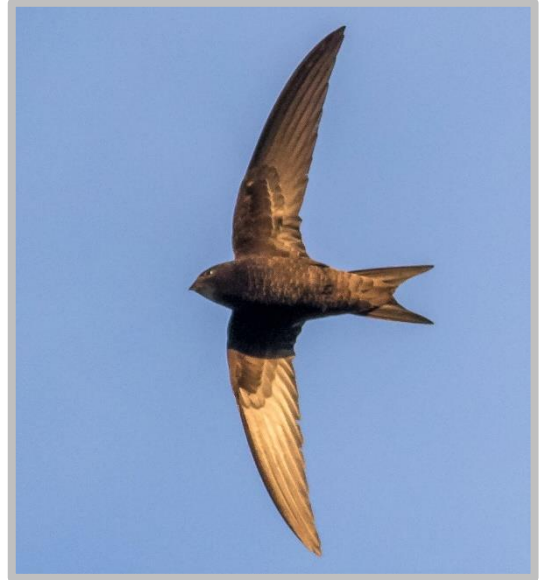
Swifts (*Apus apus*)

Each month, the **iWatchWildlife** Project choose a wildlife species that we'd like to know more about. We ask people to tell us when they spot that species, so we can then make it into a Species Record. Species records are important because the more we know - the better we can protect our local wildlife.

In **May**, we will be collecting records of **Swifts**.



Swift by Nick Edwards



Swift by Robin Pascal

How to spot a Swift:

- look to the skies!
- a medium-sized aerial bird and a superb, fast flyer
- they are plain sooty brown, but in flight against the sky appear black
- they have long, curving scythe-shaped wings and a short, forked tail
- listen out for their screaming as they swoop and dive
- swifts spend around ten months of the year on the wing – even sleeping on the wing!

About Swifts:

- have dramatically declined by over 60% in the UK during the past 20 years
- are a summer visitor from Africa travelling to the UK to breed
- on the Island: We still see them regularly, but not in the numbers they once were
- our local breeding Swifts generally return in the first week of May
- records of nest sites and screaming parties are most useful

Tell us about your observations and share your pictures [@iWatchWildlife](#) on Facebook or email iwatchwildlife@gmail.com