



## *Taking action to reverse the decline of Sheffield's Swifts*

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## Introduction to the Swift Caller

A Swift caller is a compact device designed to attract swifts to new nesting sites. By replicating the calls of swifts, the caller encourages these birds to explore and occupy new boxes or bricks. The device comes preloaded with authentic swift calls, and consistent playback is the most effective approach for attracting these birds.

### Where to buy a swift caller

Swift callers are available from £30 - £120. A complete list of manufacturers [is available on our website](#)- you can even make your own!

### Setting Up: Wire and Plug Timer

Position the caller speaker as close to the nest entrance as possible. To install, route the wire through a window or, alternatively, drill a hole to feed it through the wall. For ease of use, plug the caller into a [standard plug timer](#), which can be purchased from retailers such as Tool Station, Screwfix, Amazon, or Argos, typically costing between £6 and £8. You may also opt for a [smart plug timer](#), which allows you to control playback via a mobile app or smart speaker.

NB. Solar powered callers suit commercial or service buildings like schools, as they require no wiring or PAT testing. They're also ideal for remote locations like swift towers or churches with no electricity supply.



### Best Practice for Playing Swift Calls

- Switch the caller on around 4th May and turn it off at the end of August.
- **Set the timer to play calls for 1.5 hours after sunrise and 1.5 hours before sunset.**
- Additionally, schedule 15 minutes of playback every hour, on the hour, to attract feeding swifts.
- Avoid playing calls during extended periods of poor weather.
- Volume should be moderate—just loud enough to mimic a raised speaking voice.

### Contribute to Swift Conservation Efforts

Residents are encouraged to register their swift bricks, boxes, and all swift sightings on the [RSPB Swift Mapper](#) platform, supporting ongoing conservation initiatives. Please provide detailed information about the location of the nesting sites on your house to assist with records.

### Resident's Guide and Further Support

A dedicated resident's guide web page has been created at [Part Bird – Part Sky](#) offering comprehensive information about swifts. This resource includes helpful videos and advice to assist you in identifying signs of nesting activity and understanding swift behaviour.

### Monitoring and Feedback

Please monitor your new nests and inform us when swifts begin to use them, as this feedback will help guide future conservation projects. If you have any questions or require clarification, do not hesitate to get in touch—we are always happy to assist.

Best of luck with your swift conservation efforts, let us know how you get on. [Sheffield Swift Network](#)