

# Swift

## Identification

- Dark sooty brown
- Can look black against the sky
- Crescent-shaped wingspan
- Short forked tail
- Bullet-shaped, almost dinosaur-like head
- You'll often hear them before you see them – they make an unmistakable, piercing, high-pitched "scream"

## Flight

Swifts are high-fliers and extremely fast. No other bird can fly faster in level flight. They spend their lives in the air sleeping, mating and drinking on the wing and won't land, avoiding coming anywhere near the ground. Though they sometimes cling to a high vertical surface.

## Nesting

Swifts enter their nests via little slots leading into cavities within roofs, buildings or cliffs. They fly into these at speed, folding their wings on entry. Inside they use very little nesting material. No muddy cups for these guys!

## Where to look

Swooping or gliding at high altitude. Mornings and evenings, they come lower down. And they're particularly noisy and active around nesting colonies.

