

Hosting Swifts at the Errogie Church

Report and proposals for next breeding season

August 2025

Following the interest shown by prospecting swifts last year, a refurbished nest-box was installed on the East gable of the church in the same position as last year's. It was equipped with a camera trap so that activity might be monitored. The caller was powered by a leisure battery situated on the ground in a box, as it was not possible to access mains power from the church. This box was subsequently fitted with a hasp and padlock after the timer was tampered with.

The inclusion of a camera trap in the box proved effective. When the box was taken down at the end of the season, and the camera trap recovered, the SD card was found to have recorded over 5000 stills and movies.



These revealed that two birds enjoyed an intense spell of bonding and nest-building over a 5-day period (1-4 June).



The nest they built appears complete, and it is almost certain that this pair will return next May to establish a new breeding colony at the church if provided with suitable accommodation.

This will be a very significant milestone in the project's progress.

Proposals for next season

It is proposed to modify the box which was installed this season so that it might accommodate two pairs of swifts. The new double box will be equipped with two Green Feathers cameras, one in each apartment. These cameras will be connected to the wi-fi hub in the church. Both this and the caller will be powered by a mains cable.

To achieve this, the project is seeking, in the first instance:

- permission to access the gallery to survey the logistics of connecting to the Church power supply and internet hub, and ...
- funding to purchase, test and install the required equipment.

Timing

In order to ensure this installation is fully operational by next spring, including a live link to a website, it is proposed to undertake the initial survey work in October.

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