



Notes on Swift Attraction Calls

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Introduction

It's vital to play attraction calls to help Swifts to local the net boxes. If you don't play the calls they may never locate the boxes.

It can take anything from a few weeks to a few years for Swifts to find and take up residence in a nest box so patience is required!

CD PLAYER

If you use a CD player make sure it has a repeat button. CD players don't function well with timers so are best used in situations where they can be manually switched on and off, or can be left on permanent play.

CDs with swift attraction calls can be obtained by emailing swiftconservationireland@gmail.com

Location : the cd player should be located as near as possible to the nest boxes. At the Swift nest box project at GMIT in Castlebar we used a cd player for the first two years, until we moved over to an amplifier. The cd player was located on the window ledge beneath the boxes and it worked very well. The cd player was wrapped in plastic to protect it from the weather but you can place it in a plastic box that has had ventilation holes drilled into it.

AMPLIFIER

Swift Conservation Ireland now uses an amplifier set up because the sound is clearer than a cd player and a timer can fitted to the system if it's not possible to play calls 24 hours a day.

You can obtain a call system from the following :

- Genesis Nest Boxes in Killarney sell complete systems www.genesisnestboxes.ie . Their speaker is installed in a waterproof box. They use the same call used by Swift Conservation Ireland
- Peak Boxes in the UK sell a system which uses a waterproof speaker. The call they use is not the same as that used by Swift Conservation Ireland but is very similar. The call is loaded onto a usb stick so if you want to change the call to the one used by Swift Conservation Ireland you can email Swift Conservation Ireland and request an MP4 version which you can load onto the memory stick

DIY amplifier system

There is detailed information using an amplifier on the Action for Swifts blog.

<http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/p/attraction-call-systems-for-swifts.html>

In their information, Action for Swifts provide links to suppliers of the equipment.

You can buy the amplifiers through Amazon or Ebay. There are various models available e.g. Wingoneer Mini Bluetooth Hi-Fi Stereo Audio AMP Amplifier Booster MP4 12 V for Car



If you are purchasing items from UK companies you may find that some won't post to Ireland or the postage charge to Ireland is very high. If this is the case then you could use a virtual UK address e.g. Parcel Motel or AddressPal.

[Here is some additional information from me which may be of use if you are based in Ireland.](#)

The following equipment is needed and it has to be purchased separately:

- a) Amplifier - It usually comes with a power cable/socket but if it doesn't see b).
- b) Power socket. Some amplifiers come with a power socket but some do not. If the one you purchase does not have a power socket then you can buy one from Handykam in the UK.
- c) Tweeter speaker (if you need extra speaker cable for the tweeter it can be purchased at most electrical or motorparts shops). You can buy tweeters through Amazon or Ebay
Or a superior, more expensive, model can be purchased from CPC Farnell Ireland, the Visaton SC5-80HM, and this is the model Swift Conservation Ireland are currently using. You'll also need to purchase the terminals to connect the amplifier cable to the tweeter. See below details of the parts :

Mftr. Part No	Manufacturer / Description	Qty Ordered	Line Price
STO-1.0T-187N-5	JST (JAPAN SOLDERLESS TERMINALS) STO-1.0T-187N-5 TERMINAL, FEMALE, 4.8X0.5MM	100	€5.65
STO-1.0T-110N-8	JST (JAPAN SOLDERLESS TERMINALS) STO-1.0T-110N-8 TERMINAL, FEMALE, 2.8X0.8MM	100	€5.65
SC5-80HM	VISATON SC5-80HM 0.5" Polycarbonate Tweeter, 60W RMS, 8 Ohm (Magnetically Shielded)	12	€90.85

- d) SD card or USB key onto which the attraction calls are loaded.

Location

The call system should be located next to the nest boxes.

For externally mounted boxes we usually use the Genesis or Schwegler No17A triple cavity boxes and install a minimum of two triple nest boxes at each location.

There are is a document with advice on 'Call System Installation Instructions' on the Swift Conservation Ireland website under the tab 'Nest Box Advice'.

The Attraction Calls

The amplifier system uses an SD card or usb key with preloaded calls in mp4.

You can obtain a CD or MP4 version of the calls by emailing swiftconservationireland@gmail.com

If you need any further information or advice don't hesitate to contact us.

Attraction Call Licence

PLEASE NOTE THAT TO PLAY ATTRACTION CALLS FOR SWIFTS YOU NEED A LURE LICENCE FROM NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. This licence has to be renewed annually.

You can find the application form for a LURE LICENCE on the NPWS website

<https://www.npws.ie/licences/hunting>

Swift Conservation Ireland applies for a licence each year and if you wish your project to be linked to the SCI licence you must email us the following information :

Name and phone number of person responsible for the nest box project

Exact address where the calls are being played, including Eircode