



FEBRUARY 2024

WHICH SWIFT NEST BOX

www.swiftconservation.ie
swiftconservationireland@gmail.com

Table of Contents

EXTERNAL MOUNTING.....	2
1) VIVARA PRO GZ 10.....	2
2) GENESIS NEST BOXES	2
3) ZEIST MODEL NEST BOX.....	3
4) SCHWEGLER 17A.....	3
BUILDING INTO NEW WALLS	4
1) VIVARA PRO GZ 03.....	4
2) SCHWEGLER 17A.....	4
ATTRACTION CALLS.....	5
FOR EXTERNALLY MOUNTED NEST BOX PROJECTS:	5
FOR BUILT-IN NEST BOX PROJECTS:	5

- Swifts are colonial nesters so try to provide as many nest compartments as possible. We would consider three nest compartments per project to be a minimum.
- Once Swifts have found a nest site they will breed there forever (a pair is faithful to its nest site and should one of the birds die it will be replaced by a new mate, thus giving continuous occupancy of the nest site) so it is important that if nest boxes deteriorate that they are replaced like for like i.e. the entrance hole should be in the same location.
- Nest boxes should be installed at a minimum of 5 metres above the nearest flat surface below where the boxes are installed i.e. ground or flat roof.
- **Nest boxes should be installed facing North or East.** They can be installed facing West if there is an overhang providing shade. They should **NOT be installed facing South** because the boxes will get too hot in full sun and chicks may die or eject themselves from the nest in extreme heat.
- Entrance hole dimension is important. An ideal entrance hole size is 28-30mm x 65-70mm. If the entrance hole is greater than 30mm then Starlings will be able to access the nesting compartment. If the entrance hole is smaller than 28mm it will be too small for Swifts.
- Ideal minimum internal nest compartment size which will be adequate for a roosting Swift family (2 adults and 3 fully grown chicks) and will enable the chicks to spread their wings so that they can do their pre-fledging exercises is:
Length 30cm x Height 14cm x Depth 14cm.
- The attraction call is an essential element of any nest box project. You should play attraction calls until Swifts have taken up residence in at least two or ideally all of the nest boxes.

All of the nest boxes detailed herein are suitable for Swifts and well proven in use. There are many other models of "Swift Nest Boxes" available on the market. There is no independent quality certification process for nest boxes and so not all nest boxes are fit for the species claimed, despite best intentions. We recommend checking the suitability of any other nest box models you are considering with us prior to purchase. Our email is swiftconservationireland@gmail.com

EXTERNAL MOUNTING

The nest boxes listed below can be mounted externally on an existing building or other vertical surface. They should ideally be installed facing North or East. They can be facing West if protected from sun by an overhang. They should NOT be installed facing South.

1) Vivara Pro GZ 10

Manufacturer	Vivara Pro in the Netherlands
Model Name/No.	GZ 10
Material made from	Woodstone (wood pulp and concrete)
Pros	Woodstone is suitable and long-lasting for the wet Irish conditions. Sloping roof which means predators can't sit on top of the box. Large internal nest space. The entrance disc can be removed so that nest box camera can be incorporated. See this document for installation guidelines https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/installing_cameras.pdf
Cons	Heavy at 9kg per single box. Care must be taken to not over-tighten the mounting bolts as this could crack the woodstone.
Where to order	info@vivarapro.com
Approximate cost	€65 including VAT
VAT & Customs	VAT will only be applied once you have confirmed your order and they have sent the final invoice to you - please bear this in mind. There is no customs to pay since it's being shipped from within the EU.
Shipping Cost	If you place a bulk order of minimum €1,000 you can request a discount
Delivery time	Within a few weeks of confirming order



2) Genesis Nest Boxes

Manufacturer	Genesis Nest Boxes in Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland
Model Name/No.	N/A
Material made from	ResCom cellular magnesia cement board – see their website for information
Pros	Entrance hole size is accurate. Have model with sloping roof which makes it predator proof. Boxes are coated with cork which they say provides insulation but do not place it on a South facing wall.
Materials used	See their website for details on materials used for manufacture of the boxes.
Where to order	https://genesishnestboxes.ie/product-category/genesis-swift-products/
Approximate cost	Depends if single, double or triple compartment nest box see website for prices
VAT & Customs	Irish VAT. No customs payable
Shipping Cost	Calculated at check out when you order through the website
Delivery time	Quickly delivery once ordered through website



3) Zeist Model Nest Box

Manufacturer	Irish Garden Birds
Model Name/No.	Zeist
Material made from	FSC exterior grade European Birch Plywood
Pros	Well made and entrance hole size is very accurate. Has a sloping roof which means it is predator proof. Large internal nest space. The design on how to make this nest box model is https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Zeist-design-29mm-x-65mm-entrance.pdf BUT be sure to use good quality marine-ply to increase longevity of the nest box.
Cons	Material can deteriorate after about 6 or 7 years if not located under an overhang giving good protection from the weather.
Where to order	https://www.irishgardenbirds.ie/product/swift-nesting-box/
Approximate cost	€54.95 per box see website for full pricing with VAT and delivery
VAT & Customs	Irish VAT. No customs payable
Shipping Cost	Calculated at check out when you order through the website
Delivery time	Not known



4) Schwegler 17A

Manufacturer	Schwegler
Model Name/No.	17A triple compartment nest box
Material made from	Woodcrete (wood plup and cement mix)
Pros	Very well made. Woodcrete is suitable and long-lasting for the wet Irish conditions. Swift Conservation Ireland has some in place for 12 years and they are still in good condition. Large internal nest space. On special request you can get entrance hole size that is 29x70mm using unique Schwegler Product Code 613-IRL – see note below under ‘Where to order’.
Cons	Has a flat roof so predators can sit on top of the box if it is not installed under eaves or under an overhang. The standard entrance hole size for Schwegler 17A is 32x70mm which will let Starlings enter the nest box.
Where to order	NHBS in the UK customer.services@nhbs.com when ordering you MUST ask for "Schwegler 17A with the Irish entrance hole size - Product Code 613-IRL" If you order a significant number of boxes you can ask for a discount. They will send a quotation in Euros which will include shipping cost but not VAT.
Approximate cost	€280 per box which has three nest compartments including shipping and Irish VAT.
VAT & Customs	Irish VAT payable through the customs agent when they enter Ireland. No customs payable.
Shipping Cost	Depends how many nest boxes you order – the larger the order the more economical the shipping cost is.
Delivery time	Approximately 3 to 5 months from confirmation of order



BUILDING INTO NEW WALLS

The nest boxes listed below can be built into new walls.

See the booklet on the Swift Conservation Ireland giving best practice guidelines on the building-in process.

<https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Booklet-Building-Next-Boxes-into-Walls-PDF.pdf>

NOTE: Cameras cannot be installed in built-in nest boxes because they are closed until that can't be accessed post installation.

1) Vivara Pro GZ 03

Manufacturer	Vivara Pro in the Netherlands
Model Name/No.	GZ 03 https://www.vivaraapro.nl/shop/inbouwstenen-voor-vleermuizen-gierzwaluwen-en-huismussen/inbouwstenen-gierzwaluw/ib-gz-03-inbouwsteen-gierzwaluw-renovatie/
Material made from	Woodstone (wood pulp and concrete)
Pros	The material and size of the box is suitable for incorporating into concrete block walls. It is made specifically for building into walls.
Cons	The box protrudes a few cms into the cavity but there is still plenty room for insulation.
Where to order	info@vivaraapro.com
Approximate cost	€45 including shipping and VAT
VAT & Customs	VAT will be applied once you have confirmed your order and they have sent the invoice so please bear this in mind. There is no customs to pay as shipped from within the EU
Shipping Cost	If you place a bulk order of minimum €1,000 you can ask for a discount
Delivery time	Within a few weeks of confirming order



2) Schwegler 17A

Manufacturer	Schwegler
Model Name/No.	17A triple compartment nest box
Material made from	Woodcrete (wood plup and cement mix)
Pros	Very well made. This nest box is easy to incorporate into concrete block walls. Large internal nest space. On special request you can get entrance hole size that is 29x70mm using unique Schwegler Product Code 613-IRL – see note below under ‘Where to Order’
Cons	The box is 1 metre long so we recommend placing a lintel over each nest box as per picture below. The standard entrance hole size for the Schwegler 17A is 32x70mm which will let Starlings enter the nest box.
Where to order	customer.services@nhbs.com when ordering you MUST ask for "Schwegler 17A with the Irish entrance hole size - Product Code 613-IRL" If you order a significant number of boxes you can ask for a discount. They will send a quotation in Euros which will include shipping cost but not VAT.
Approximate cost	€280 per box which has three nest compartments including shipping at VAT.
VAT & Customs	Irish VAT payable through the customs agent when they enter Ireland. No customs payable
Shipping Cost	Depends how many nest boxes you order – the larger the order the more economical the shipping cost.
Delivery time	Approximately 3 to 5 months from confirmation of order



ATTRACTION CALLS

You need to play attraction calls to help Swifts locate nest boxes. Non-breeding Swifts are flying 24/7 so they have to find their nest site whilst flying. They do this in two ways 1) by following breeding birds who have a nest site which gives them an idea what sort of location they should look out for to find their own nest site 2) by listening for birds within a nest site. It is method 2) that we are mimicking with an attraction call system.

You should play attraction calls from 1 May to 31 August each year until Swifts have taken up residence in at least half of the nest compartments or ideally all of the nest them.

For externally mounted nest box projects:

We would recommend the Peak Boxes system from the UK because it's an extremely good system and quite reasonable in price. They won't ship to Ireland but if you set up an An Post AddressPal account which gives you an address in the UK then you can order using that address. Otherwise, I sometimes have them in stock here and if I do you can buy one from me. <https://peakboxes.co.uk/shop-sound-systems>

Or

You can assemble your own system. Information on this can be found in this document on the SCI website. <https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/How-to-Assemble-Attraction-Call-System.pdf>

For built-in nest box projects:

See page 18 of our booklet for details on installing a marine quality waterproof speaker
<https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Booklet-Building-Next-Boxes-into-Walls-PDF.pdf>

Or

You can use the Peak Boxes system from the UK because it's an extremely good system and quite reasonable in price. They won't ship to Ireland but if you set up an An Post AddressPal account which gives you an address in the UK then you can order using that address. Otherwise, I sometimes have them in stock here and if I do you can buy one from me. <https://peakboxes.co.uk/shop-sound-systems>

Or

You can contact Swift Conservation Ireland who may be able to supply. swiftconservationireland@gmail.com
