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# WHICH SWIFT NEST BOX

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- 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 4.5 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 28.5/30mm 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](mailto: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) Schwegler 17A (used by Swift Conservation Ireland)

<b>Manufacturer</b>	Schwegler
<b>Model Name/No.</b>	17A triple compartment nest box
<b>Material made from</b>	Woodcrete (wood pulp) and cement mix)
<b>Pros</b>	Very well made. Woodcrete is suitable and long-lasting for wet Irish weather conditions. Swift Conservation Ireland has some in place for 12+ years and they are still in good condition. <b>On special request you can get entrance hole size that is 29x70mm using unique Schwegler Product Code 613-IRL</b> – see note below under ‘Where to order’. The entrance hole disc can be removed so cameras can be installed. See this document for installation guidelines <a href="https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/installing_cameras.pdf">https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/installing_cameras.pdf</a>
<b>Cons</b>	Has a flat roof so predators can sit on top of the box if it is not installed under eaves or under an overhang.
<b>Where to order</b>	<a href="https://www.quickcrop.ie/products/schwegler-17a-triple-swift-box-irish-spec.html">https://www.quickcrop.ie/products/schwegler-17a-triple-swift-box-irish-spec.html</a> Quick Crop are based in Ballymote, Co. Sligo
<b>Approximate cost</b>	€360.00
<b>Shipping Cost</b>	Free shipping
<b>Delivery time</b>	Within days when they have them in stock.



## 2) Vivara Pro GZ 10

<b>Manufacturer</b>	Vivara Pro in the Netherlands
<b>Model Name/No.</b>	GZ 10
<b>Material made from</b>	Woodstone (wood pulp and concrete)
<b>Pros</b>	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.
<b>Cons</b>	Heavy at 9kg per single box. Care must be taken to not over-tighten the mounting bolts as this could crack the woodstone.
<b>Where to order</b>	<b>You must email VivaraPro in the Netherlands</b> to buy this model <a href="mailto:info@vivarapro.com">info@vivarapro.com</a>
<b>Approximate cost</b>	€65 including VAT in July 2024
<b>VAT &amp; Customs</b>	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.
<b>Shipping Cost</b>	If you place a bulk order of minimum €1,000 you can request a discount
<b>Delivery time</b>	Within a few weeks of confirming order



### 3) Zeist Model Nest Box

<b>Manufacturer</b>	Irish Garden Birds
<b>Model Name/No.</b>	Zeist
<b>Material made from</b>	FSC exterior grade European Birch Plywood
<b>Pros</b>	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 <a href="https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Zeist-design-29mm-x-65mm-entrance.pdf">https://www.swiftconservation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Zeist-design-29mm-x-65mm-entrance.pdf</a> BUT be sure to use good quality marine-ply to increase longevity of the nest box.
<b>Cons</b>	Material can deteriorate after about 6 or 7 years if not located under an overhang giving good protection from the weather.
<b>Where to order</b>	<a href="https://www.irishgardenbirds.ie/product/swift-nesting-box/">https://www.irishgardenbirds.ie/product/swift-nesting-box/</a>
<b>Approximate cost</b>	€65 per box in July 2024 see website for full pricing with VAT and delivery
<b>VAT &amp; Customs</b>	Irish VAT. No customs payable
<b>Shipping Cost</b>	Calculated at check out when you order through the website
<b>Delivery time</b>	Not known



## 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

<b>Manufacturer</b>	Vivara Pro in the Netherlands
<b>Model Name/No.</b>	GZ 03 <a href="https://www.vivarapro.nl/shop/inbouwstenen-voor-vleermuizen-gierzwaluwen-en-huismussen/inbouwstenen-gierzwaluw/ib-gz-03-inbouwsteen-gierzwaluw-renovatie/">https://www.vivarapro.nl/shop/inbouwstenen-voor-vleermuizen-gierzwaluwen-en-huismussen/inbouwstenen-gierzwaluw/ib-gz-03-inbouwsteen-gierzwaluw-renovatie/</a>
<b>Material made from</b>	Woodstone (wood pulp and concrete)
<b>Pros</b>	The material and size of the box is suitable for incorporating into concrete block walls. It is made specifically for building into walls.
<b>Cons</b>	The box protrudes a few cms into the cavity but there is still plenty room for insulation.
<b>Where to order</b>	You must email VivaraPro in the Netherlands <a href="mailto:info@vivarapro.com">info@vivarapro.com</a>
<b>Approximate cost</b>	€45 including shipping and VAT
<b>VAT &amp; Customs</b>	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
<b>Shipping Cost</b>	If you place a bulk order of minimum €1,000 you can ask for a discount
<b>Delivery time</b>	Within a few weeks of confirming order



## 2) Schwegler 17A

<b>Manufacturer</b>	Schwegler
<b>Model Name/No.</b>	17A triple compartment nest box
<b>Material made from</b>	Woodcrete (wood plup and cement mix)
<b>Pros</b>	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’
<b>Cons</b>	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.
<b>Where to order</b>	<a href="https://www.quickcrop.ie/products/schwegler-17a-triple-swift-box-irish-spec.html">https://www.quickcrop.ie/products/schwegler-17a-triple-swift-box-irish-spec.html</a> Quick Crop based in Ballymote, Co. Sligo
<b>Approximate cost</b>	€360.00
<b>Shipping Cost</b>	Free shipping
<b>Delivery time</b>	Within days if they have the nest box in stock.



## 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.

### Calls 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>

### Calls for 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 AnPost AddressPal account which gives you an address in the UK then you can order using that address. To order directly from Peak Boxes visit their website <https://peakboxes.co.uk/shop-sound-systems>

Or

You can contact Swift Conservation Ireland who may be able to supply. [swiftconservationireland@gmail.com](mailto:swiftconservationireland@gmail.com)

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