

# Swallow

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the Sussex would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change enabling us to create a living landscape

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## Nest-site necessities

These summer visitors can be found nesting in stables, garages, sheds, barns, porches and boat-houses. Natural nesting sites include ledges and cliffs. Often the same site is used year after year. If you do find a Swallows nest in an out building make sure that access is guaranteed by leaving the window open.



Swallows on a nest / Vanda Pellins

## Building materials

A mud cup nest that is generally lined with grass and feathers.



Swallow / Alan Price, Gatehouse

## Chick care

Aerial food is the order of the day and the parents may feed 50 times an hour, if the food is available close to the nest.

## Special dietary requirements

Swallows feed on the wing like Martins, although they feed at lower levels than Martins and love to scoop up insects such as mosquitoes and dragonflies.

## Night shelter

The female roosts on the nest, with the male very nearby. The non-breeding birds, and all the birds outside the breeding season, roost communally, in the favoured habitat of reedbeds.

Roosts may reach 100,000 in autumn, on migration and in the winter quarters.



Swallow / Sophie May Lewis

## The ideal territory

Although often associated with rural farm locations, there are plenty of suburban semi-detached houses with birds in the garage or the potting shed.

## When it's all happening

Traditionally, the first-brood eggs are laid in May. Young are often still in the nest in September.



Young swallows / Alan Price, Gatehouse

**Breeding Starts:** April- May

**Number of Clutches:** 2-3

**Number of Eggs:** 3-8

**Incubation Days:** 14-16

**Fledge Days:** 17-24

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