

## First Conference Call

### FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SWIFT CONFERENCE – TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

MARCH 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2018

At the Fourth International Swift Conference in 2016 at Szczecin, Poland, it was decided to hold the Fifth International Swift Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel. **This is the first time the conference will be held outside Europe and we are very proud to have received this opportunity to host it**, and expand the discussion beyond the European borders by inviting lecturers and participants from Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Greece, Turkey, Egypt and additional North African countries. We hope to use the swifts as messengers of peace to expand regional cooperation and as you surely would agree, they are the perfect candidates!

We are sure that besides the interesting lectures, you will have a unique and unforgettable experience visiting our small country, rich with many swift and bird species. 540 bird species can be observed in Israel, and 500 million birds migrate over the country twice a year – March is the peak of the migration season.

Please see the following information about the conference.

#### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

As in previous years, we are setting a fee to go towards covering the administrative costs of the conference:

- €100 for professionals (academics and those working in the field)
- €25 for students (until MA/diploma)
- €50 others

#### Registration fee payment

Please fill in registration form with your credit card details.

**Registration should be no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. Please note that the fee will be increased by 25% after November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.**



Israel, paradise for swifts and swift lovers  
(Photo: Amir Ezer)



Schiff House in Tel Aviv, a heritage site with nesting swifts  
(Illustration: Tuvia Kurtz)

#### VENUE & HOTEL DETAILS

##### Conference hotel

**Ruth Daniel Residence** (3 stars) located in Jaffa close to the Old City and tourist sites [60 rooms reserved] (<http://www.mishkenot-jaffa.co.il/>).

##### Additional hotel

**Dan Panorama Hotel** (4 stars plus) 10-15 minute walk from conference hotel located on the Tel Aviv beachfront [30 rooms reserved] (<https://www.danhotels.com/TelAvivHotels/DanPanoramaTelAvivHotel/index.htm>)

You can of course book your own accommodation in additional hotels/hostels in the vicinity of the conference hotel via the Internet, for example:

- Old Jaffa Hostel ([www.telaviv-hostel.com](http://www.telaviv-hostel.com))
- Milk & Honey Hostel ([www.facebook.com/milkandhoneyhostel](http://www.facebook.com/milkandhoneyhostel) / [milkandhoneyjaffa@gmail.com](mailto:milkandhoneyjaffa@gmail.com) / tel. +972-3644-4316)

#### Hotel prices (including breakfast)

	Single room	Double room	Triple room
<b>Ruth Daniel Residence*</b>	€122	€143	€204
<b>Dan Panorama Hotel</b>	€205	€214	€236

\* Price for supper/lunch at Ruth Daniel Residence is €25

In order to reduce costs, you can arrange to share a room with 1 or 2 other conference participants. Please take this into account if relevant when you fill in the prices on the registration form.

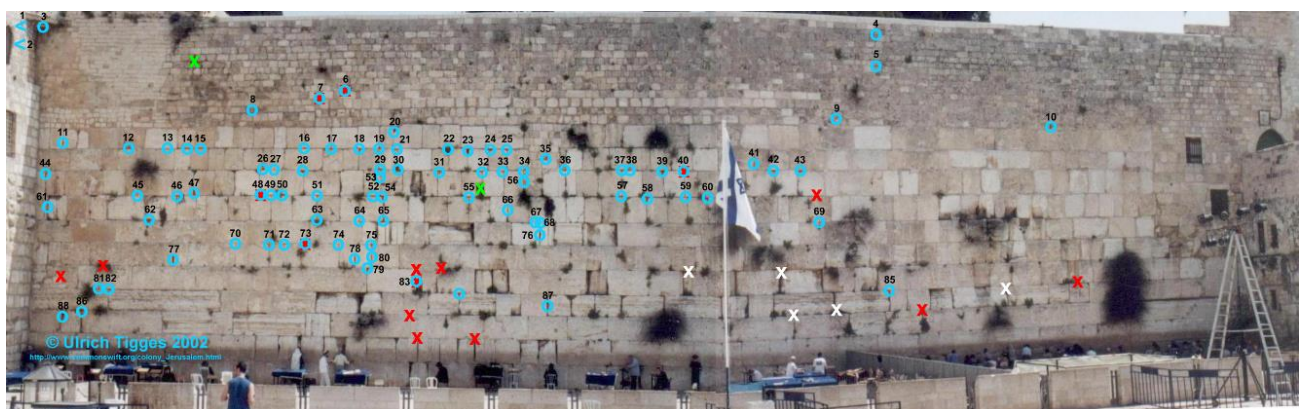
#### Details for reserving rooms

1. Ruth Daniel Residence: directly to email [Roomdm@mishkenot-jaffa.co.il](mailto:Roomdm@mishkenot-jaffa.co.il) / [res@mishkenot-jaffa.co.il](mailto:res@mishkenot-jaffa.co.il). The hotel will charge your credit card on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 (but register now!).
2. Dan Panorama Hotel: please fill in registration form with your credit card details.

**You are requested to reserve your hotel rooms by October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 – after this date the hotels won't keep the rooms for the conference and you will need to find your own accommodation.**

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

- Edward Mayer, Swift Conservation, UK
- Dr. Mauro Ferri, Italy
- Amnon Hahn – Director, The Friends Of The Swifts Association (FOTS)
- Dan Alon – Director, Israel Ornithological Center (IOC), Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI)
- Prof. Yossi Leshem – SPNI, Tel Aviv University
- Dr. Nir Sapir – Haifa University
- Sorrel Ritter – Conference coordinator, SPNI
- Representative from the Israeli Electric Corporation (IEC) [conference partner] TBD
- Representative from the Tel Aviv Municipality [conference partner] TBD



Map of swift nesting sites in Western Wall, the Old City of Jerusalem, the holiest Jewish site (Ulrich Tigges 2002)

## CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

1. Keynote speakers (35 mins + 5 mins questions)
2. Lecture (17 mins + 3 mins questions)
3. Posters

We are planning to divide the lecture sessions according to topic (e.g. flight, food, weather, swifts and the community, population genetics, tracking methods, swifts as peacemakers, swifts and religion). If you have proposals for topics, please write to us.

**Please send us an abstract of maximum 300 words and the topic of your lecture/poster by October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.**

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OUTLINE

### Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

16:00 – 19:00 Registration

19:30 – 21:30 Evening get together festive event at Ruth Daniel Residence

### Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

09:00 – 09:30 Greetings [not yet confirmed]:

Ron Huldai – Mayor of Tel Aviv-Jaffa

Hashem Hussein – Director-General of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Noam Tibon – Chairman of Tel Aviv Global

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yiftah Ron-Tal – Chairman of the Israeli Electric Corporation (IEC)

Iris Hahn – CEO of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI)

Edward Mayer – Swift Conservation, England

09:30 – 10:10 Keynote speaker lecture 1

10:10 – 10:50 Keynote speaker lecture 2

10:50 – 11:20 Coffee break

11:20 – 13:00 Lectures 1-5 [each 20 min]

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break at hotel [please note on registration form]

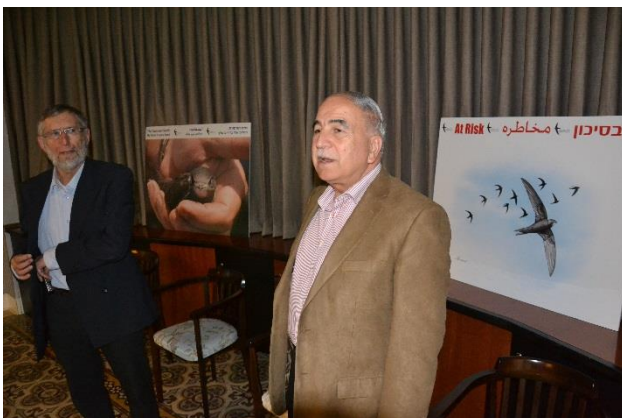
14:30 – 15:50 Lectures 7-10

15:50 – 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 – 17:00 Lectures 10-11

18:00 – 19:00 Dinner [please note on registration form]

19:30 – 22:00 Guided tour of Jaffa's Old City



May 2012: Joint seminar with the Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians at Schiff House – regional cooperation using swifts who nest in the Church of the Nativity, Mosque in Amman and Jerusalem's Wailing Wall to bring nations and religions together; on the left (center): General (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid, Chairman of the Amman Center for Peace and Development (ACPD), Jordan

## Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

06:00	Early morning birding tour before breakfast [optional]
09:00 – 09:40	Keynote speaker lecture 3
09:40 – 10:20	Keynote speaker lecture 4
10:20 – 10:50	Coffee break
10:50 – 13:00	Lectures 12-17
12:50 – 14:30	Lunch break at hotel [please note on registration form]
14:30 – 18:00	Swift tour in Tel Aviv to: (1) IDF Headquarters and Sarona to learn about the Nature Defense Forces and their connection to swifts and heritage sites; (2) Nesting boxes at the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) directorate building and walk to Schiff House
19:30	Free evening in Jaffa

## Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

06:00 – 23:00	Tour to Jerusalem and the Dead Sea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jerusalem Bird Observatory – ringing station in the Israeli Parliament grounds</li><li>• Wadi Kelt (a gorge in the Judean Desert between Jerusalem and Jericho) to see three swift species: Alpine, Little and Pallid Swifts</li><li>• Swifts Welcoming Ceremony at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem</li></ul> <p><u>Greetings [not yet confirmed]:</u> MK Tzachi Hanegbi – Minister of Regional Cooperation Mr. Reuven Rivlin – President of Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, Muristan, The Christian Quarter – The Tree of Hope – the olive tree swift sculpture and closing event with dinner and Middle Eastern music</li></ul>
---------------	--

## Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

09:00 – 10:00	Invited speaker
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 12:00	Open discussion and conference summary
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break at hotel [please note on registration form]
12:00	Free afternoon and evening in Tel Aviv

**March 16<sup>th</sup>** Optional tour to see the Griffon Vultures in Mt. Carmel and Little Swifts nesting in the Hula Valley in north Israel as well as many more local and migrating birds  
**PRICE:** €40 (including bus and professional guide)

**March 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** Optional 4-day tour (3 nights) from Tel Aviv via the Negev to Eilat to view the amazing migration as part of the Eilat 2018 International Spring Migration Festival; accommodation at Eilat's excellent Agamim hotel; price includes half board, bus, professional guides and participation in all the festival events  
**PRICE:** €755 per person in double room / €1,065 per person in single room



Please send all registration forms and queries to Sorrel Ritter, conference coordinator, at Yossi Leshem's office: [yleshem@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:yleshem@post.tau.ac.il)

We recommend that you book your flights as early as possible in order to enjoy the low cost flights and prices.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

**Amnonn Hahn**

Friends of the Swifts Association

[hahn@bezeqint.net](mailto:hahn@bezeqint.net)

**Prof. Yossi Leshem & Sorrel Ritter**

SPNI, Tel Aviv University

[yleshem@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:yleshem@post.tau.ac.il)

**Dan Alon**

Israel Ornithological Center, SPNI

[ioc@inter.net.il](mailto:ioc@inter.net.il)



The Tree Of Hope in the Garden Of Hope at St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital – Sculptor Mark Coreth (Photo: Amnonn Hahn)



Welcoming ceremony for the swifts at the Western Wall in Jerusalem with Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz of the Western Wall (Photo: Amnonn Hahn)



March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016: inauguration ceremony of 36 nesting boxes for swifts at the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) Directorate building (Photo: Yossi Weiss (IEC))