



THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SWIFT CONFERENCE – TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

MARCH 11th – 16th, 2018

RUTH DANIEL RESIDENCE, 47 Jerusalem Blvd. Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel, 972-3-526-4526

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 and the Palestinian Authority. 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.

VENUE & HOTEL DETAILS

Conference hotel

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

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

- Amnonn 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)
- Edward Mayer – Swift Conservation, UK
- Dr. Nir Sapir – University of Haifa
- Dr. Mauro Ferri – Italy
- Sorrel Ritter – Conference coordinator, SPNI
- Prof. Yossi Leshem – SPNI, Tel Aviv University

PAPERS

1. Keynote speakers (26 mins + 4 mins questions)
2. Lectures (17 mins + 3 mins questions)
3. Posters (on display in poster area)

PROGRAM OUTLINE

SUNDAY, MARCH 11th

16:00 – 19:00 Registration

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

MONDAY, MARCH 12th

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

Ron Huldai – Mayor of Tel Aviv-Jaffa

Dr. Yossef Dreiznin – Director-General of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation

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

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

Edward Mayer – Swift Conservation UK

Dame Dr. Jane Goodall – recorded greeting

FIRST SESSION – Chairman: Mauro Ferri

09:30 – 10:00 **Christoph Meier** – Migratory schedule of different Alpine Swifts

10:00 – 10:30 **Dick Newell** – What do we know about Swift Nest Boxes?

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:20 **Mark Smyth** – A walk on the Wildside – A look at Swift nesting sites in the natural landscape

11:20 – 11:40 **Lynda Huxley** – Swifts in Ireland

11:40 – 12:00 **Ninon Ballerstadt** – Swifts' sleeping behavior

12:00 – 12:20 **Judith Wakelam** – 15 years of rehabilitating Swifts in my home

12:20 – 12:40 **Edward Mayer** – A new Swift Column for the modern built environment

12:40 – 13:10 **Peter Cush** – An overview of Apus apus & Apus apus pekinensis

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch break

SECOND SESSION – Chairman: Edward Mayer

14:45 – 15:05 **Mark Coreth** – The Tree of Hope – A Swift Project

15:05 – 15:25 **Alexandru Stahl** – Mauerseglerklinik Frankfurt: Mastering Swift rehabilitation

15:25 – 15:45 **Marco Cucco** – Citizen-Science: Swift Conservation in Italy

15:45 – 16:05 **Thomas Starkmann** – Common Swift nesting sites conservation in Vienna

16:05– 16:35 Coffee break

16:35 – 16:55 **Katja Schmieder** – "The coolest bird": cultural differences between European and American Swifts

16:55 – 17:15 **Itai Bloch & Nir Sapir** – Insights from ATLAS tracking of foraging Little swifts in the Hula Valley, Israel

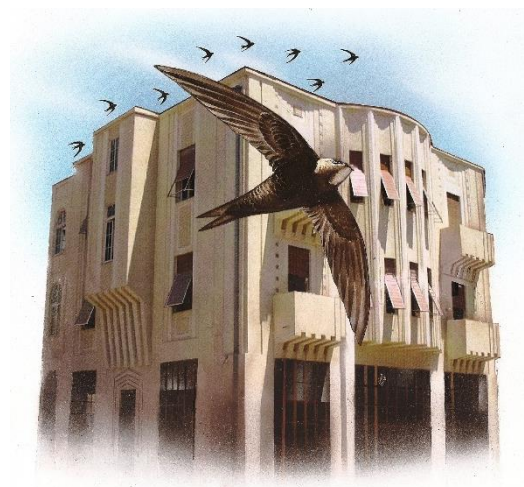
17:15 – 18:15 **Poster Session**

18:30 – 19:30 Dinner

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



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



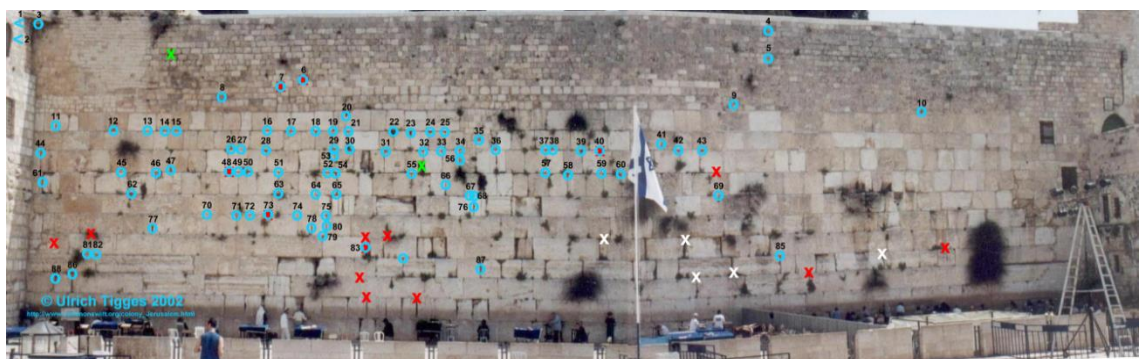
Schiff House in Tel Aviv, a heritage site with nesting swifts
(Illustration: Tuvia Kurtz)

TUESDAY, MARCH 13th

- 06:00 Early morning birding tour before breakfast [optional]
- 07:00 – 08:30 **Breakfast**
- THIRD SESSION – Chairman: Sorrel Ritter**
- 09:00 – 09:30 **Yossi Leshem & Amnon Hahn** – A Swift Way to Peace
- 09:30 – 10:00 **Lynda Huxley** (presented on behalf of **Chris Huxley**) – Some aspects of the breeding biology of the swifts of County Mayo, Ireland
- 10:00 – 10:20 **Gen. (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid** – Birding activities in Jordan
- 10:20 – 10:50 Coffee break
- 10:50 – 11:10 **Melapo Apostolidou** – Helping Swifts in Cyprus
- 11:10 – 11:30 **Lukas Viktora** – Does it really work? A study in the Czech Republic
- 11:30 – 11:50 **Diane Yorgason-Quinn** (presented on behalf of **Larry Schwitters**) – Audubon's "Vaux's Happening" Project
- 11:50 – 12:10 **Parcharidou Effrosyni** – Swift friendly buildings in Thessaloniki, Greece
- 12:10 – 12:30 **Stefano Pesaro** – A multi-faceted approach to Swift conservation in Italy
- 12:30 – 12:50 **Lothar Schiffler** – Airlines: Bird Tracks in the air
- 12:50 – 13:50 Lunch break
- 14:00 – 18:00 Swift tour in Tel Aviv to include: (1) Swift "Living Wall" at Catzenelzou School; (2) IDF Headquarters to learn about the Nature Defense Forces and their connection to Swifts and heritage sites; (3) Schiff House with online cameras in Common Swift nests
- 19:30 Free evening in Jaffa

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14th

- 06:00 – 06:30 Breakfast at hotel before departure
- 06:30 – 23:00 Tour to Jerusalem and the Dead Sea:
- Jerusalem Bird Observatory – ringing station in the Israeli Parliament grounds
 - Wadi Kelt (a gorge in the Judean Desert between Jerusalem and Jericho) to see three Swift species: Alpine, Little and Pallid Swifts
 - Swifts Welcoming Ceremony at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem
- Greetings [not yet confirmed]:
- MK Tzachi Hanegbi – Minister of Regional Cooperation
- Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz – Rabbi of the Western Wall



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

- St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, the Christian Quarter to see the **Tree of Hope**, an olive tree Swift sculpture, and then the closing event with dinner and Middle Eastern music



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

THURSDAY, MARCH 15th

07:00 – 08:30 Breakfast

FOURTH SESSION – Amnonn Hahn

08:45 – 09:05 **Gert de Yong** – How to conduct a census of Swifts in a city like Amsterdam, The Netherlands

09:05 – 09:25 **Mauro Ferri** – Artificial Swift nests from Medieval period up to modern times

09:25 – 09:45 **Kevin Prince** – X-ray fluorescence study of Swifts' feathers

09:45 – 10:05 **Francisco Javier Saez Frayssinet** – The protection of Apus Apus in Segovia, Spain

10:05 – 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 – 13:00 Open discussion including voting for the 2020 International Conference location

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 Free afternoon & evening in Tel Aviv-Jaffa

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th

06:00 – 06:30 Breakfast at hotel before departure

06:30 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

SATURDAY-TUESDAY, MARCH 17th-20th

Time to be announced Early morning wakeup & breakfast boxes from hotel

Time to be announced Departure on 4-day tour (3 nights) from Tel Aviv via the Negev to Eilat to view the amazing bird migration as part of the Eilat 2018 International Spring Migration Festival; accommodation at Eilat's excellent Agamim hotel



Schiff House (Illustration: Tuvia Kurtz)

Amnonn Hahn

FRIENDS OF THE SWIFTS R.A.

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Prof. Yossi Leshem & Sorrel Ritter

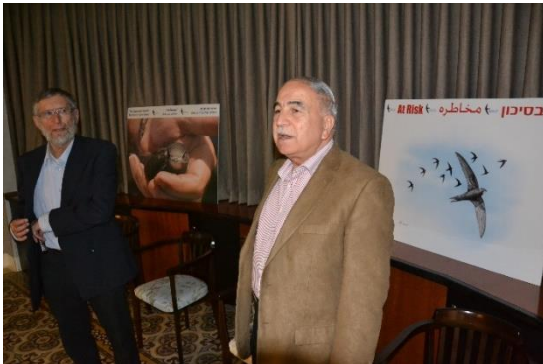
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May 2012: Joint seminar with the Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians at Schiff House – regional cooperation using Swifts who nest in the Church of the Nativity, Mosque in Amman and Jerusalem's Wailing Wall to bring nations and religions together;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