



FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SWIFT CONFERENCE

RUTH DANIEL RESIDENCE,
TEL AVIV-JAFFA, ISRAEL

MARCH 11TH - 16TH 2018



Photos: Yossi Leshem, Ami Vardi, Amnonn Hahn

Schiff House in Tel Aviv, a heritage site with nesting swifts

Illustration: Tuvia Kurtz


Society for the
Protection of Nature in Israel
9 2 0 8 0 3 3 4 7 1 7 2 0 1
Israel Ornithological Center


The Haegge Foundation
Society for the Protection of Nature


משרד הפיתוח
תחומי השפיעה


תל אביב
UNIVERSITY


משרד הפיתוח
תחומי השפיעה
وزارة التعاون
الاقليمي
The Ministry of Regional Cooperation


תל אביב
UNIVERSITY


אוניברסיטת חיפה
University of Haifa

Swift flying over the Western Wall and Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem (Photo from a drone: Yuval Dax)



THE SWIFT - A "FLAG SPECIES"
Israel, paradise for swifts and swift lovers



Photo: Amir Ezer

Movies shown at the opening of the conference

Greeting to conference participants by Tel Aviv Mayor, Mr. Ron Huldai:

<https://youtu.be/mxE0ZnAAUvA>

Greeting to conference participants by Dr. Jane Goodall:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FLnGbtFFEnPyj6bcbeLHqr9fDVnNQvoB>

Movie about the swifts at the Western Wall (filmed by Yuval Dax):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl5NsZvWaLk&t=53s&index=5&list=PLEGWAbGB4Pl3AK60V_e-F_P1Dd3rPIBhD

Sorrel Ritter and Einat Matalon are ready to welcome the 90 participants



An exhibition of photographs and paintings at the entrance to the hotel





בית המדרש השוכן בתוך בית המדרש
בית המדרש השוכן בתוך בית המדרש
בית המדרש השוכן בתוך בית המדרש

בואו להתחבר לשורש היהודי בעולם של בחירה

"הישן יתחדש, והחדש יתקדם"

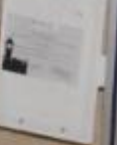
המרכז הלאומי לחינוך
היהודי-הערבי
בית המדרש השוכן בתוך בית המדרש
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בית המדרש השוכן בתוך בית המדרש
בית המדרש השוכן בתוך בית המדרש
בית המדרש השוכן בתוך בית המדרש

- Floor 1 קומה 1
Paving
Entrance בנייה
Hall
Cafeteria
Floor 2 קומה 2
Class Hall
Dining Room
Office
Floor 3 קומה 3
Bicycle
Floor 4 קומה 4
Bicycle
Floor 5 קומה 5
Bicycle

שכנים
בית המדרש













From right: Henrique Cymerman, senior journalist and personal friend of the Pope, General Baruch Spiegel (Israel), General Mansour Abu Rashid (Jordan) and Prof. Yossi Leshem



Amnonn Hahn in the final preparations for the conference



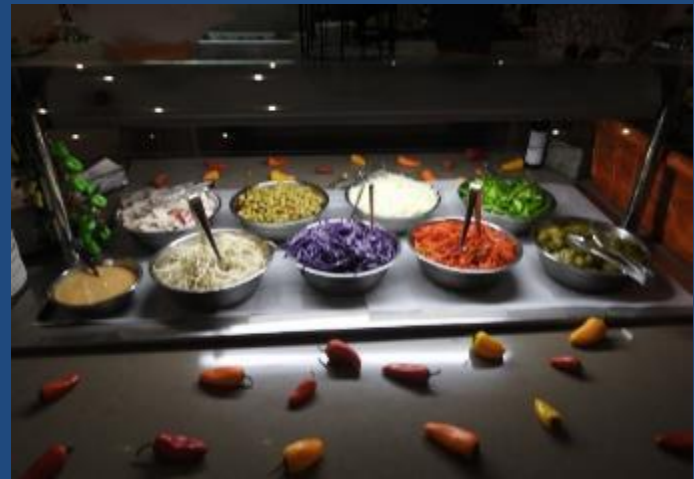
Bernie's group ("Kleizmer") played us melodies throughout the opening night



A festive meal to open the conference at the Ruth Daniel Residence



A special cake was prepared with a drawing of a Swift for Sorrel's birthday at the opening of the conference



**Sorrel and her husband Yoram are surprised by the unique cake;
on the right, Dr. Christoph Meier is delighted**





Amnonn Hahn opens the evening



Yossi Leshem welcomes the conference participants



Henrique Cymerman welcomes and talks about his close ties with the Pope




משכנות רות דניאל
RUTH DANIEL RESIDENCE
תל-אביב-יפו • TEL AVIV-JAFFA

General Mansour Abu Rashid and General Baruch Spiegel (left) at the signing ceremony of the 1994 Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty, with President Clinton, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, King Hussein and President Ezer Weizman



General Mansour Abu Rashid, Chairman of ACPD from Jordan, talks about the actions in cooperation with Jordan, emphasizing "the war for peace"



General Baruch Spiegel from Israel talks about the cooperation with the Jordanians and the Palestinians



Edward Mayer from the International Committee and his wife Mandy seem to be enjoying themselves! (Landed "just at that moment"!)



Mark Coreth, Zev Labinger and Dr. Ninon Ballerstaedt



Amnonn Hahn, Director of the “Friends of the Swifts” Association, with Einat Geffen-Segal (center) of the Tel Aviv-Yafo Environmental Authority, who supported the conference, and Einat Matalon of the “Friends Of The Swifts”



-- Monday, March 12th 2018 First Lecture Day --
Dr. Itai Roffman and his father Dr. Ehud Roffman, Jane Goodall's
representatives in Israel, came to introduce Dr. Jane Goodall's Video



Dan Alon, Director of the Israel Ornithological Center (IOC), and Maj. Gen. (Res.) Noam Tibon, Chairman of Tel Aviv Global and the representative of the Tel Aviv Municipality at the event



Yusuph Emmanuel from JGI “Roots & Shoots” in Tanzania with Dr. Itai Roffman and Martine Wauters from “Swifts Without Frontiers” Belgium



Dr. Yossi Draznin, Director General of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation, which supported the conference, with Gen. Baruch Spiegel and General Mansour Abu Rashid, the generals who promote peace



90 guests in the audience are all ready to start







Greetings from the Mayor of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Mr. Ron Huldai



Dr. Itai Roffman presents Dr. Jane Goodall's video greeting



**Dr. Draznin, Director General of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation, welcomes
on behalf of the Government of Israel and Minister Tzachi Hanegbi**

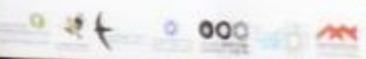


FIFTH INTERNATIONAL
SWIFT CONFERENCE

HAUTH DANIEL RESIDENCE
TEL AVIV-JAFFA, ISRAEL
MARCH 11TH-15TH 2016



Swift House in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, a
heritage site with nesting swifts.
Illustration: Tanya Kufan



מרכז תרבות
ע"ש ג'ק, ג'וזף ונורטון מנדל
JACK, JOSEPH AND NORTON MANDEL
CULTURAL CENTER

Goodall's
Pots & Shoots



FIFTH
INTERNATIONAL
SWIFT CONFERENCE
TEL AVIV-JAFFA MARCH 11-16
2016

Dan Alon, Director of the Israel Ornithological Center, introduces the lecturers



Iris Hann, CEO of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, congratulates the participants and says things in memory of Gail Rubin, a bird photographer who was murdered by terrorists on March 11th, 1978 (30 years ago) in Ma'agan Michael, while she was photographing birds



June Goldblatt's
Roots & Shoots

מרכז תרבות
ג'וזף ומורטון מנדל
JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDIEL
CULTURAL CENTER

FIFTH
INTERNATIONAL
SWIFT
CONGRESS
TEL AVIV-YOFA

Edward Mayer welcomes on behalf of the International Committee





First of All
a
HUGE THANK YOU!
to
Sorrel, Amnonn and Yossi
for organising this first-ever
Swift Conference in the Middle East





Iris Hann is impressed by the collaboration on swifts at the global level

Swifts Without Frontiers

Swifts's breeding sites in the Northern Hemisphere are threatened by current building & renovating methods. Fortunately, more & more people in more & more countries are acting to preserve them. On the other hand, although they spend 9 months per year in sub-Saharan Africa, there has been little if any field actions there, to document threats (like hunting and deforestation) and to protect Swifts. Swift Without Frontiers aims at linking people from both Hemispheres so that more & more people know, love and protect Swifts. Its goal is also to use Swifts as ambassadors between Swift herds and youth groups of the Jane Goodall Institute's global Roots&Shoots programme for exchanges on biodiversity, culture and peace, which all have a more or less direct impact on Swift protection. Since 2014, a few pilot projects have started to produce concrete, promising results. BFW aims at facilitating such networking and collaborations.

United we are stronger please join us!

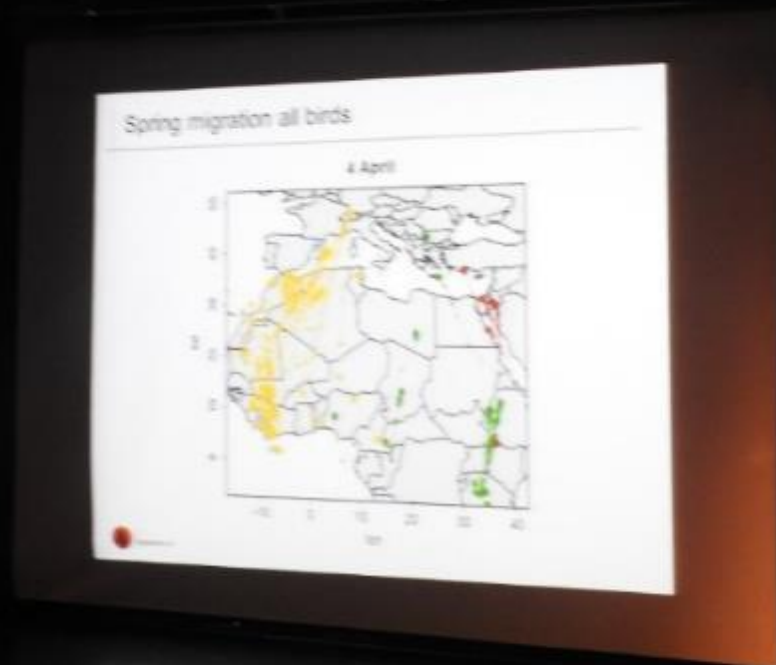
CONTACT:
biodiv.apus@gmail.com
http://martinew.canalblog.com
www.facebook.com/martinetssansfrontieres

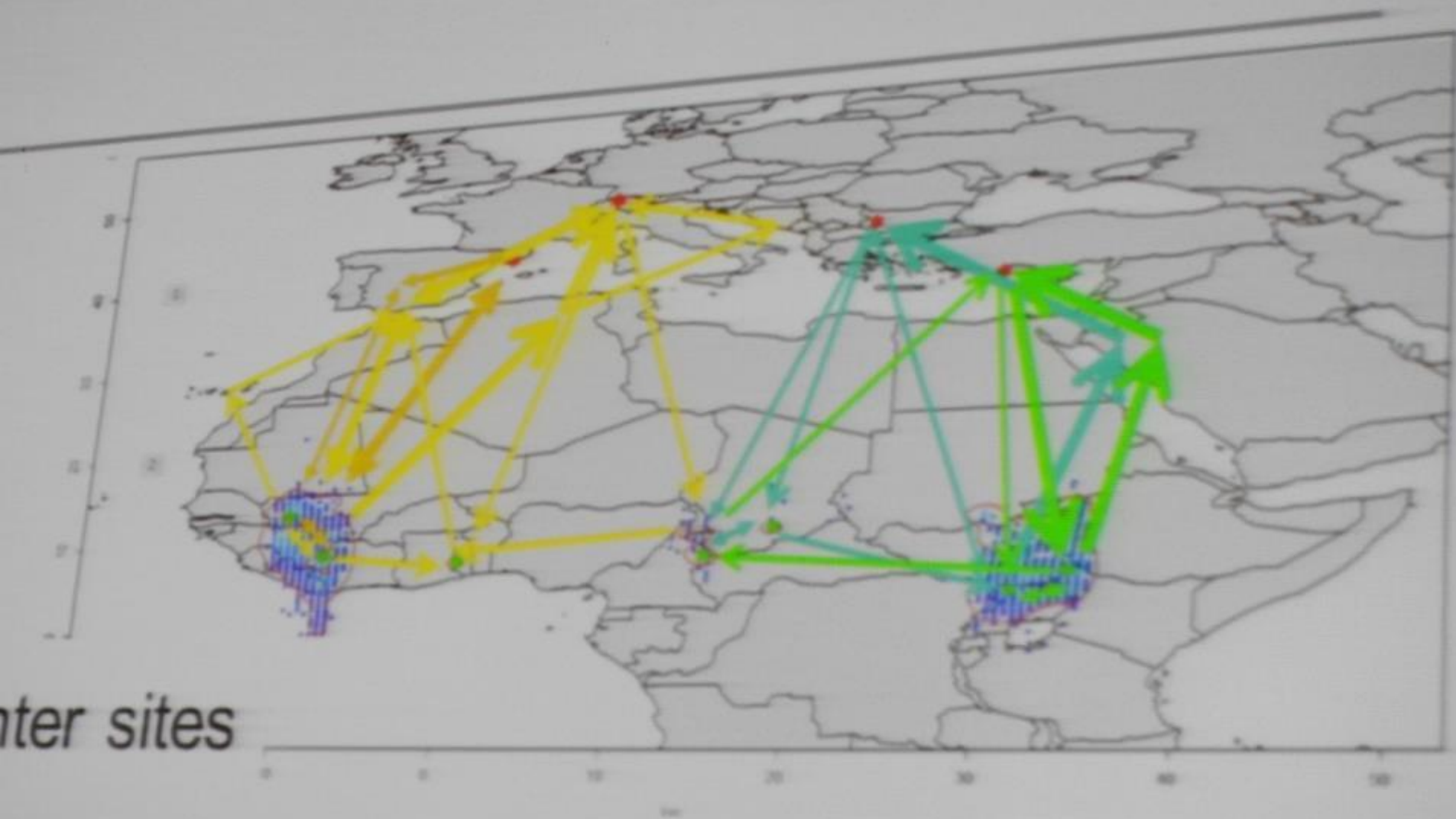
Logos: Swifts Without Frontiers, Jane Goodall's Roots&Shoots

On the left, Dr. Nir Sapir, the academic supervisor of Itai Bloch (center), a graduate student in the field of swifts at the University of Haifa; on the right Rivka, Yossi's wife, enjoys the conference



Dr. Christoph Meier from Switzerland at the opening lecture of the conference





Erez Erlichman, who writes about animal life on Ynet, the largest Internet site in Israel (4 million hits a day!), who is preparing an article about the swift conference



**Dick Newell, “Action for Swifts” UK, lectures on:
What do we know about Swift Nest Boxes?**



Oxford University Museum of Natural History



2017: Things that have worked well



1908: RSPB Swift box, 2 shillings



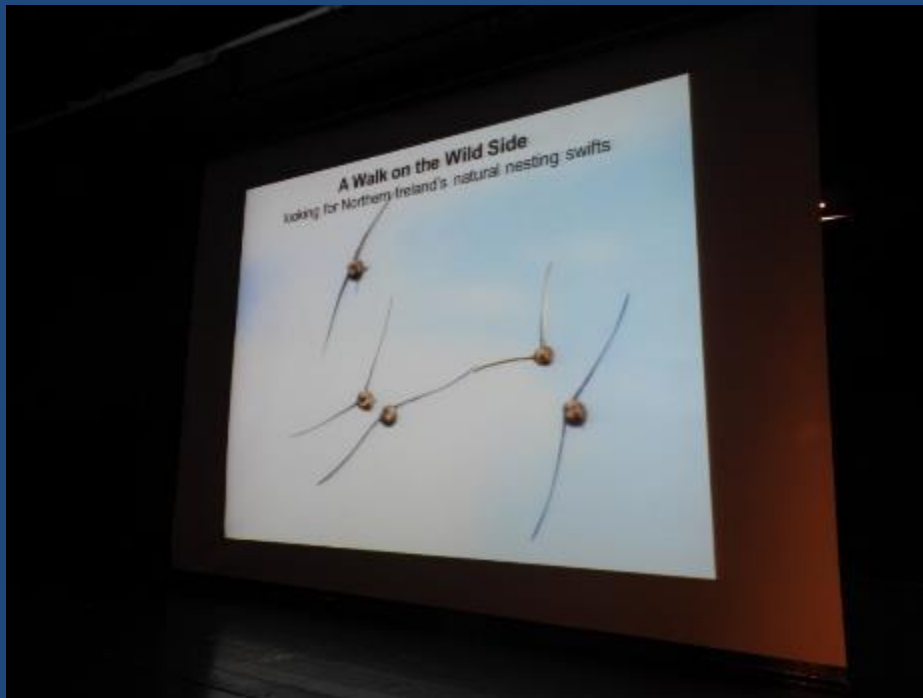
The Hirsal Swift box 1950



Ikram Quttaineh from East Jerusalem makes connections with friends



**Mark Smyth from Ireland lectures on:
A walk on the Wildside – A look at Swift nesting sites in the natural landscape**



**Brian Cahalane from Ireland lectures on:
Swifts in Ireland**



Dr. Ninon Ballerstadt from Germany lectures on: Swifts' sleeping behavior



SLEEP – why do we sleep?

Sleep is essential, and as far as we know, needed by every creature.

A lack of sleep – sleep deprivation - leads to sickness and in worst case to death, not only in humans (mammals) but in birds as well.



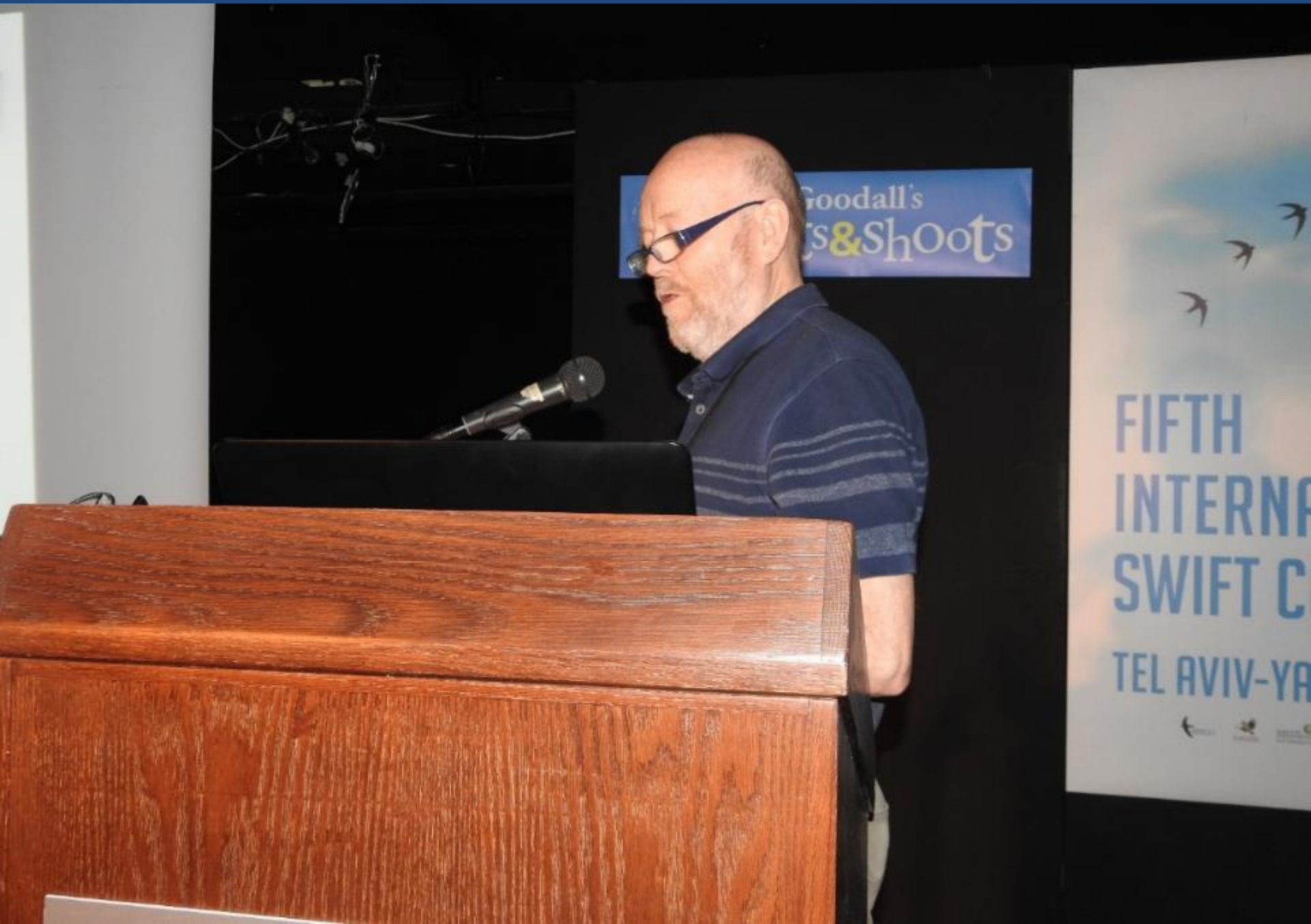
**Judith Wakelam from the UK lectures on:
15 years of rehabilitating Swifts
in my home**



Edward Mayer from England lectures on: A new Swift Column for the modern built environment



Peter Cush from Ireland lectures on: An overview of *Apus apus* & *Apus apus pekinensis*



Some of the posters prepared for the conference



Zev Labinger



Mark Coreth from the UK lectures on his Tree of Hope

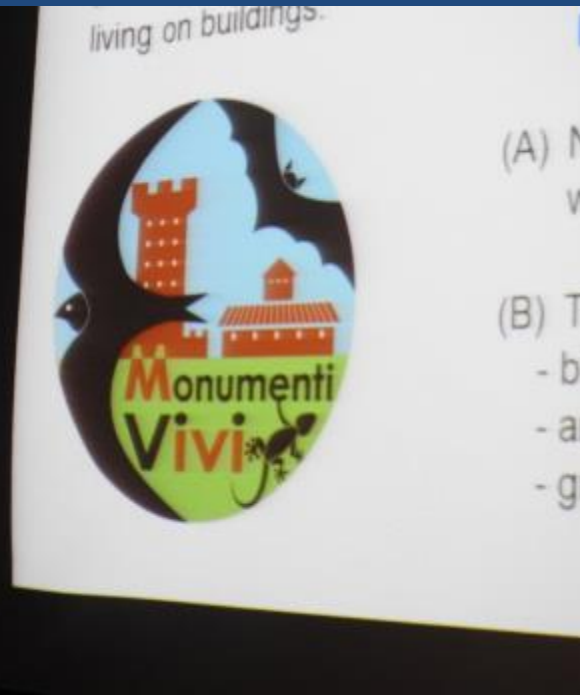




**Alexandru Stahl from Romania lectures on:
The Mauerseglerklinik Frankfurt: Mastering Swift rehabilitation**



Prof. Marco Cucco from Italy lectures on: Citizen-Science: Swift Conservation in Italy



Ikram Quttaineh and the Director of the Hanns Seidel Foundation tell the story of their activities in the Middle East and how women are leading more and more ventures



Ikram Quttaineh lectures on: Mahmiyat.ps website - Environmental awareness from the virtual world to the real world



Katja Schmieder couldn't attend the conference –
you can listen to a recording of her lecture on:

"The coolest bird": cultural differences between European and American Swifts

<https://youtu.be/hJsc597WH38>



Swift drinking while flying above water
(Photo: Marc Guyt / www.agami.nl)

**Yusuph Emmanuel from Tanzania lectures on his conservation work
in Tanzania with the Jane Goodall Institute's "Roots & Shoots"**





**Itai Bloch from Haifa University, Israel, lectures on:
Insights from ATLAS tracking of foraging Little Swifts in the Hula Valley, Israel**



**March 12th at night – tour of Old Jaffa; Suleiman the guide on the Sebil front
(Mameluke drinking site)**



Doron guides the second group



The Clock Tower in Jaffa and a man who sells herbal tea



A colony of fruit bats in Jaffa



March 13th, 2018: Sorrel Ritter opens the morning session





Prof. Yossi Leshem from Israel lectured on: A Swift Way to Peace



Lynda Huxley from Ireland lectures on:
Some aspects of the breeding biology of the swifts of County Mayo, Ireland

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מרכז תרבות
ג'וזף ומורטון מנדל
JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON
CULTURAL CENT

General Mansour Abu Rashid of Jordan talks about the joint activity with Israel



Melpo Apostolidou from Cyprus lectures on: Helping Swifts in Cyprus



Lukas Viktora from the Czech Republic lectures on: Does it really work? A study in the Czech Republic



**Diane Yorgason-Quinn from the USA lectures on:
Audubon's "Vaux's Happening" Project**



The four species of swallows
America

Painting by Ed Newbold



Vaux's Black White-throated Chimney

Parcharidou Effrosyni from Greece lectures on: Swift friendly buildings in Thessaloniki, Greece

Accepted approach of Liberi di Volare for the conservation of swift



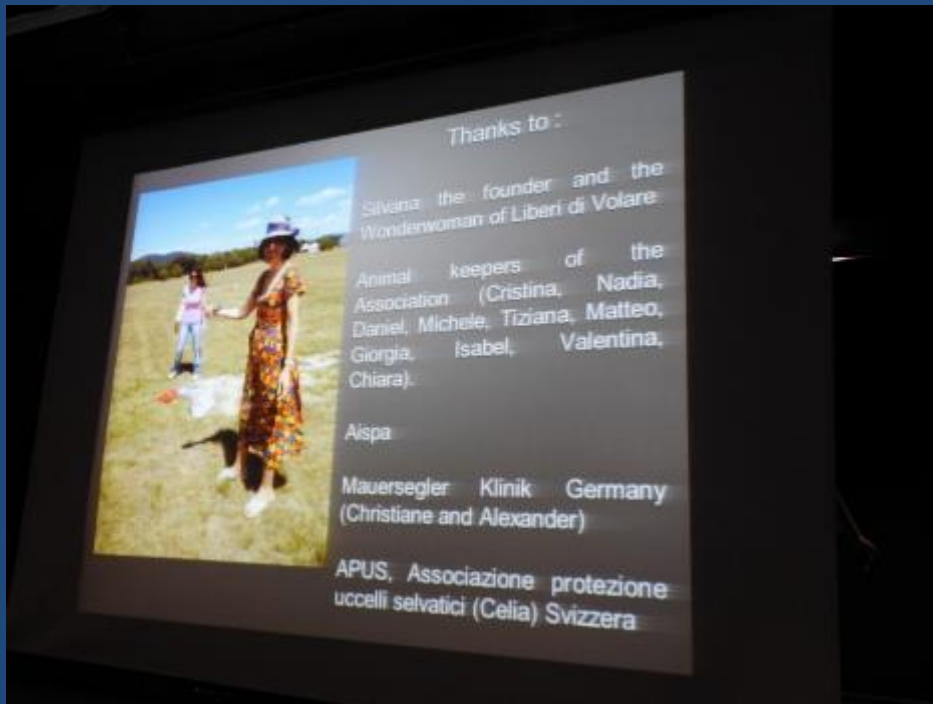
S. Pesaro, M. Meola, S. Di Mauro, P. Vasca, B. Cimador, K. C. Prince



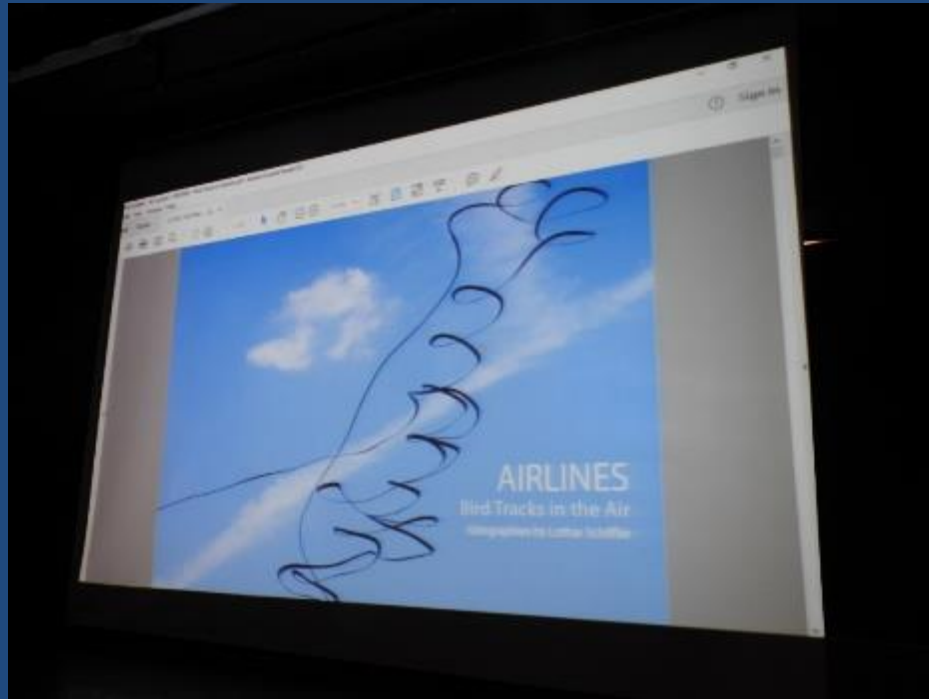
Effrosyni Parcharidou
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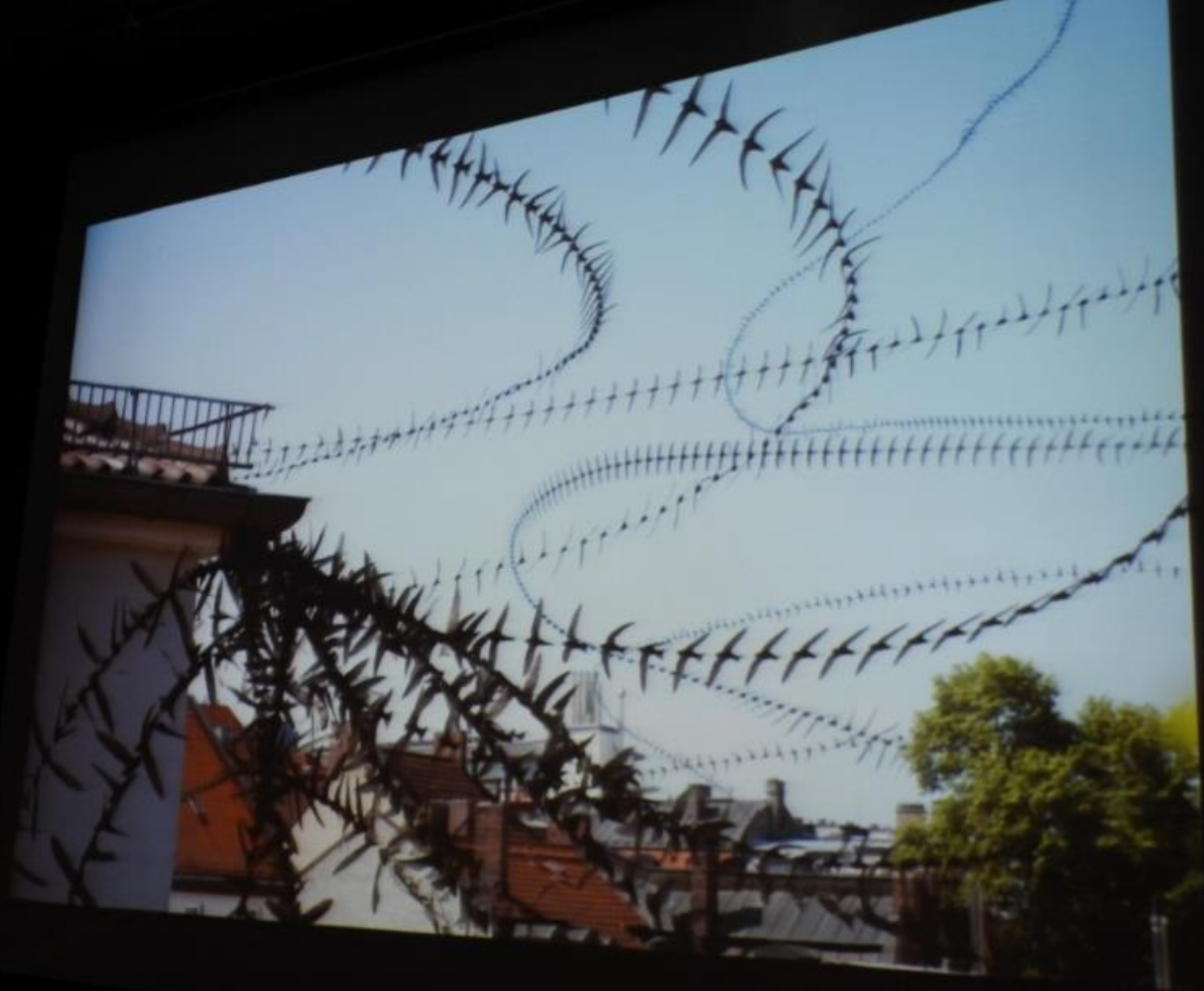


Stefano Pesaro from Italy lectures on: A multi-faceted approach to Swift conservation in Italy



Lothar Schiffler from Germany lectures on his work: Airlines - Bird Tracks in the air









**Yossi Leshem and Eugenia Parisi from Italy are photographed as a souvenir;
Eugenia made a gift of two ceramic swifts for Yossi**



**A tour of the Katznelson School that adopted the swifts with nest boxes
made of old ammunition boxes**

Ami Vardi



The Director of the Sustainability and Environmental Division at the Municipality of Givatayim, Dr. Yaniv Ronen, came to congratulate and talk about the importance of the project





Ami Vardi

**Col. Yigal Ben Ami, Commander of the IDF Headquarters Army Base,
is waiting for the guests**



The IDF prepared refreshments for the important guests





Ami Vardi

**At the archaeological site, the conference guests are more interested
in the swifts flying over their heads**











Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi

Group photo next to the nest boxes



Ami Vardi

A visit to the Directorate of the Israel Electric Corporation; the sign explains the swift project



Ami Vardi







Anat Shamir, Director of the Service Division, and Erez Schleifer, Director of Petah Tikva Region, from the Israel Electric Corporation proudly display a swift model











**March 14th, 2018: Tour to the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea;
first observation point at Ma'ale Prat to view four species of swifts**





Mark meets poet Shira Twersky-Cassel, who is very attached to the swifts









Ami Vardi



A second observation spot at Mitzpeh Shalem over the Dead Sea, the lowest place in the world (400 meters below sea level)



**The Dead Sea retreats each year by a full meter, creating sinkholes,
a significant safety hazard**



Jonathan Meyrav (left), one of the leading ornithologists at the SPNI joined the observation to watch the amazing migration of Vultures, Black Storks, Cranes and Swifts



Ami Vardi





Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



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Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ezra Hadad



© Shlomi Levi



© Barak Granit



© Amir Ben dov







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The Tristram excites all the swift lovers

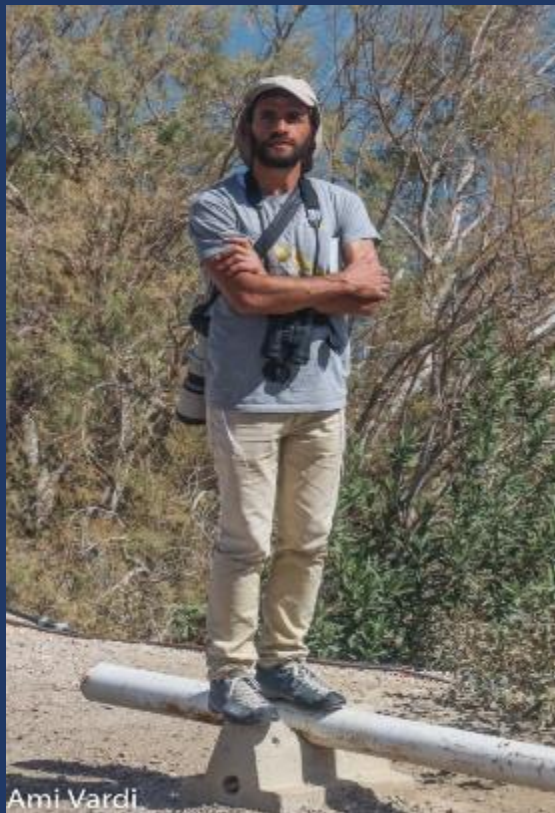




Lunch at Ein Gedi Field School near Wadi David; on the left Itai Bloch, a swift researcher; on the right, a male Nubian Ibex



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



A trip to the Gazelle Valley in the heart of Jerusalem to watch the swifts come to drink water in the pool, view the gazelles and the variety of local birds



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Naomi Zur, Founder and Chair of the Jerusalem Green Fund, and Amir Balaban of the SPNI, the Director of Urban Nature and the Jerusalem Bird Observatory at the Knesset, join the tour







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A tour of the Old City of Jerusalem – St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and the Western Wall



At Jaffa Gate Yossi is the guide



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Walking in David Market



Ami Vardi



Sculptor Mark Coreth next to the Tree of Hope he initiated – very exciting!





The Lutheran Church in the background



**Mr. Peter Khoury, Chief Executive of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital,
welcomes the guests to St. John Old City Muristan Garden**





Ahmad Awadallah, Facilities Manager of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital





ST. JOHN EYE HOSPITAL
JERUSALEM



**Three swifts for the three “Nations of Abraham” – Muslims, Christians and Jews;
the purchase of the sculptures contributes to the St. John Eye Hospital Group
throughout the Middle East**





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The “Muristan Swift Nesting Colony” was built just alongside the “Tree of Hope”





Photo: Baruch Gian



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At the entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

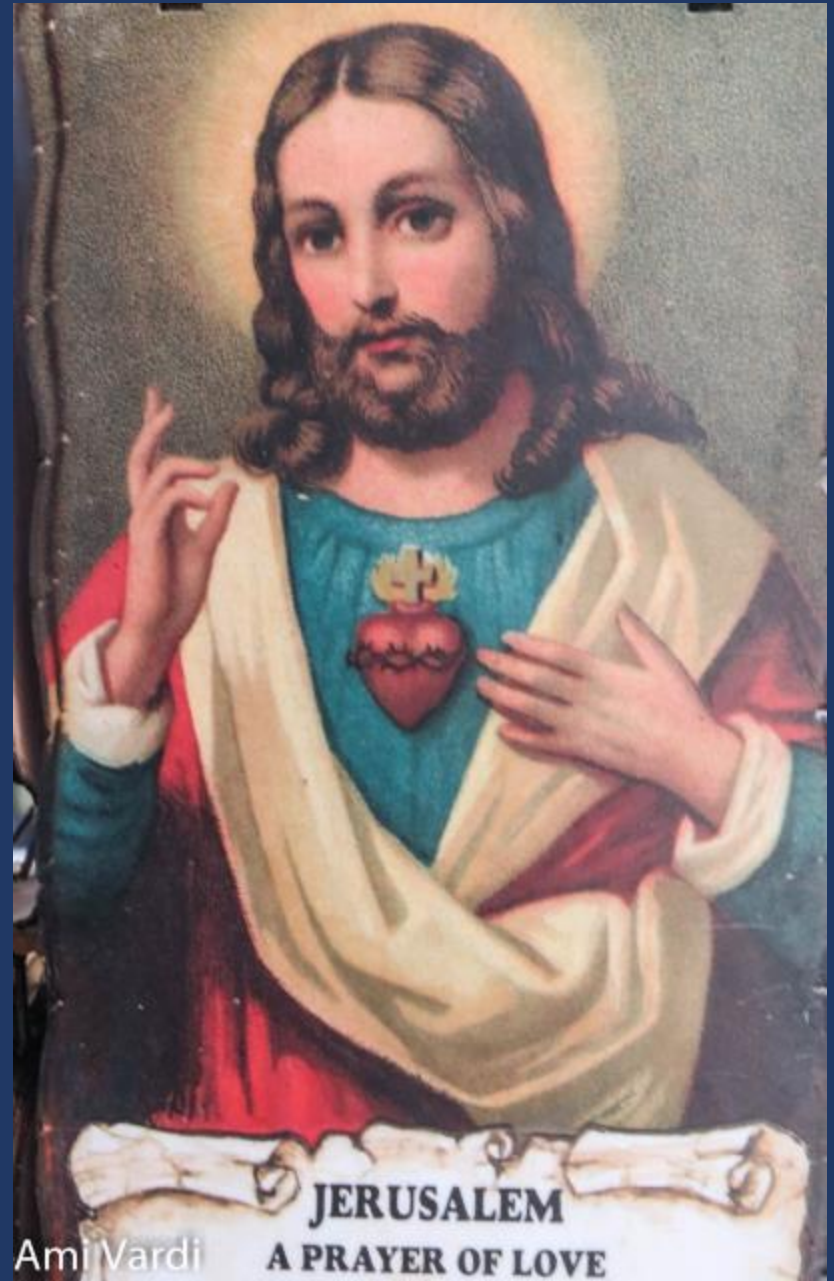




Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi

JERUSALEM
A PRAYER OF LOVE





The Western Wall



The Swift Welcoming Ceremony was cancelled because of the Ferrari Scandal – next year we will hold it again with the President of Israel

Rabbi of the Western Wall, Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz:

"We made a huge mistake with the Ferrari exhibit at the Western Wall" – Ynet



Photo: Ofir Gonen



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Israeli ornithologist Hadoram Shirihi, on the swift viewed at the Western Wall: “Leucistic for sure, but of what species difficult to be sure, and despite the reported larger size; the white rump is pure and unrelated to the leucistic issue, but I am not sure about that too...”



Photo: Piotr Szczypa



Ami Vardi

The Western Wall – Jerusalem

The potential nesting sites in the Kotel in 2002



http://www.commonswift.org/colony_Jerusalem.html or Sandgrouse 27: 82-87, **APUS**list No. 2854

© Ulrich Tigges 2002

Blue circle = Common Swift (*Apus apus*) no. 1 and 2 are out off sight, red X = House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), green X = Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) and white X = Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia* forma *domestica*). Black number = number of holes; white number = count of flight ins. Note that some holes are shared by more than one species.

Most of the holes are situated about nine metres high between the 9th and 10th row of the stones. 16 nesting sites can be found here alone. The fewest can be found in the southern part. It seems that more cracks are filled with mortar here. In some holes (nos. 14 and 15) the Common Swifts entered obliquely, that is, the cavities are at an angle. In nesting site no. 20 the Swifts flew straight into the cavity without touching the entrance hole. In another four nest sites (nos. 41, 76, 77, 87) the Swifts make a 90° turn just before the entrance hole and flew into it in this position, without touching the entrance. One may assume that in such cases, the nesting site is at a certain distance from the entrance hole and that the approach to it is large enough to allow the bird to fly within it. Two holes are behind vegetation (nos. 22 and 63). When the plants grow further, the nesting sites cannot be reached by the Swifts anymore.



Photo: Flash 90



ירושלים מברכת את הסיסים
עם שובם לכותל המערבי

Jerusalem Welcomes the Swifts
on their return to the Western Wall



The ceremony of welcoming the swifts with the Western Wall Rabbi



Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat welcoming the swifts



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טקס קבלת הפנים לסיסים
עם שובם לקנ בכותל המערבי בירושלים
A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR THE SWIFTS
ON THEIR RETURN TO NEST IN THE WESTERN WALL

במעמד ראש עיריית ירושלים, מר ניר ברקת
In the Presence of Mr. Nir Barkat, the Mayor of Jerusalem

יום שני, י"ח אדר תשע"ב, 12 במרץ 2012
Monday, 12 March 2012





Ami Vardi

View of the Old City of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives



Ami Vardi

Seven Arches Hotel – a gala dinner









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Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



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Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi



Ami Vardi





March 15th, 2018: Last day of lectures; Edward introduces the lecturers



**Gert de Jong from the Netherlands lectures on:
How to conduct a census of Swifts in a city like Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

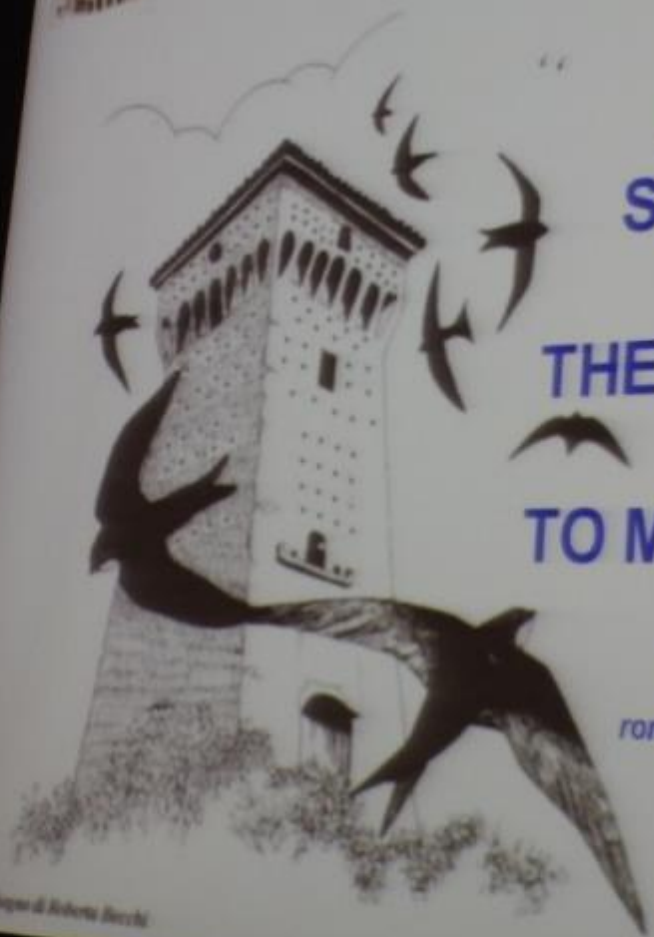


**Dr. Mauro Ferri from Italy lectures on:
Artificial Swift nests from Medieval period up to modern times**





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RUTH DANIEL RESIDENCE, TEL AVIV-JAFFA, ISRAEL
March 11th - 16th 2018



ARTIFICIAL SWIFT NESTS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES UP TO MODERN TIMES

Mauro Ferri
rondonecomune@gmail.com



FESTIVAL DEI RONDONI
SWIFTS & FUN 2018

disegni di Roberto Burchi

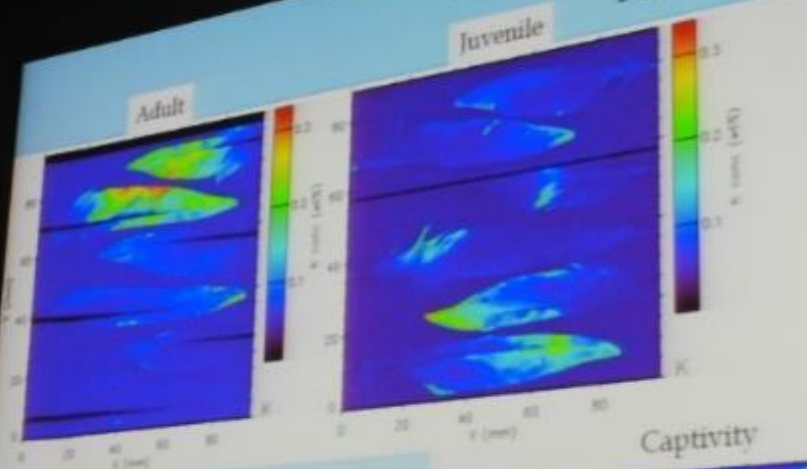
**Dr. Kevin Prince from Italy lectures on:
X-ray fluorescence study of Swifts' feathers**



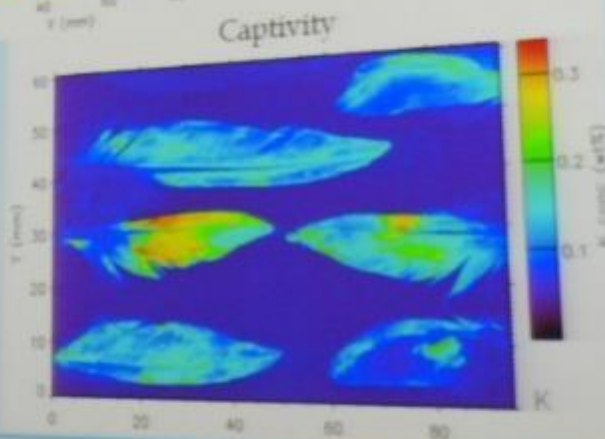
XRF measurements Potassium



Università del Friuli Venezia Giulia



- Same concentration of Potassium in all type of feathers, even though K seems more uniformly distributed in captivity samples.



Francisco Javier Saez Frayssinet from Spain lectured on:
The protection of Apus Apus in Segovia, Spain



FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SWIFT CONFERENCE
TEL AVIV-JERUSALEM 2018



FORO GEOBIOSFERA

Swifts protection in Segovia. Francisco Javier Sáez Frayssinet

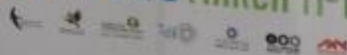
**Thomas Starkmann from Austria lectures on:
Common Swift nesting sites conservation in Vienna**





FIFTH
INTERNATIONAL
SWIFT CONFERENCE

TEL AVIV-YAFO MARCH 11-16



Edward concludes the conference



**Selection of the site for the next conference –
competition between Segovia and Trieste; Segovia (Spain) won!**





Photo: Ulrich Tigges



Photo: Ulrich Tigges



Jane Goodall's
roots&shoots



**A gift from artist Alison Ingram to the conference organizers,
presented by Kasia Szczypa**



Jane Goodall's
Roots & Shoots



Already hanging in Yossi's office at Tel Aviv University



March 16th, 2018: trip to the Carmel Hai-Bar Nature Reserve





Vultures from the wild on the acclimatization cage





Photo: Amit Hass

An Egyptian Vulture on the acclimatization cage





Ygal Miller from the Carmel Hai-Bar Nature Reserve



A typical Israeli lunch - hummus, salad, pickles, pita bread and black coffee







Viewing the Little Swifts breeding colony with Itai Bloch









A trip in the Hula Nature Reserve



Eurasian Cranes at the Agamon Hula



Photo: Amir Ezer



Ami Vardi

**The conference
was an
appetizer for
another visit to
Israel. It was
really great to
host all of you!**