

Swifts in Ireland

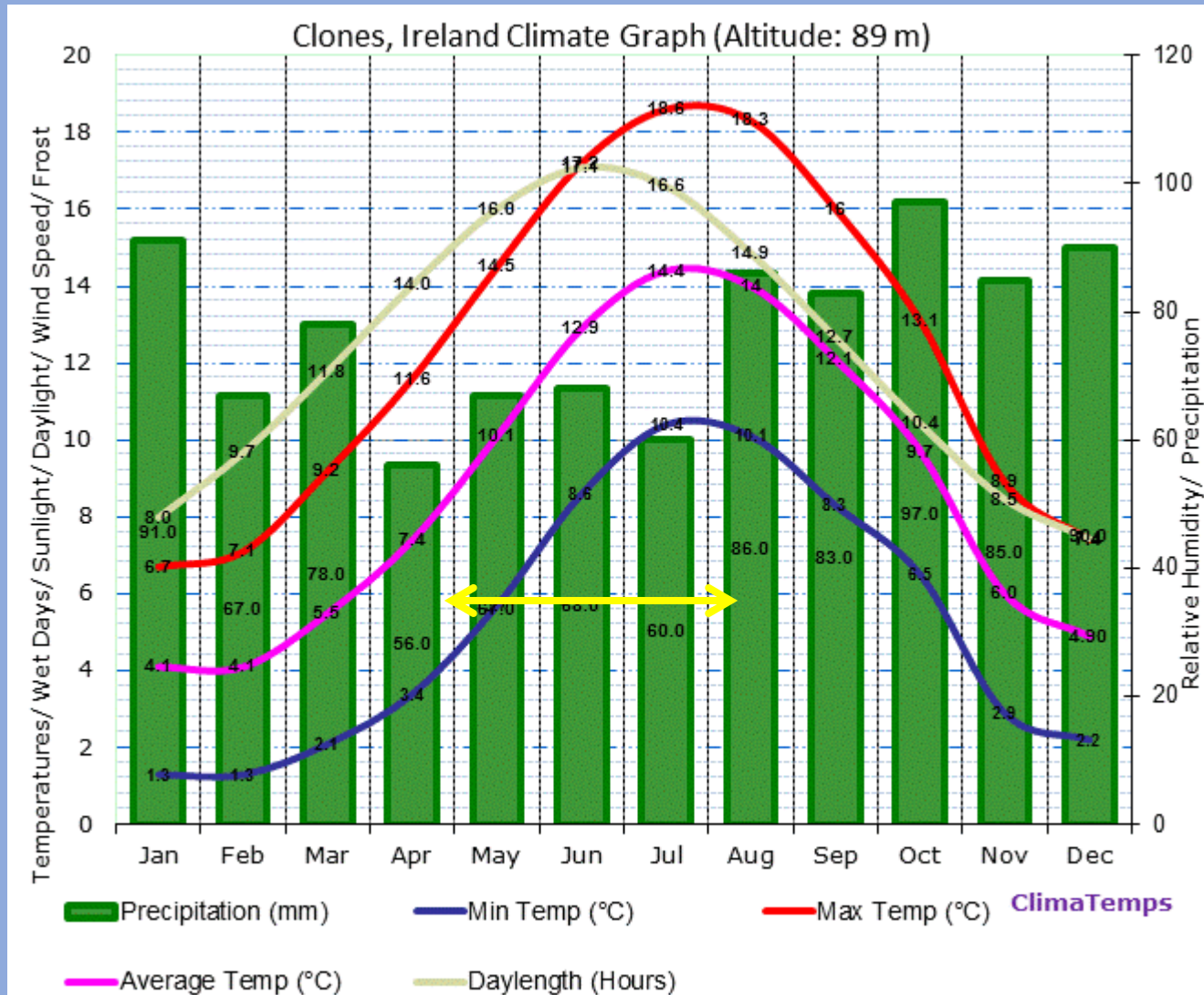
TED HUGHES

ARRIVAL

“They’ve made it again/
Which means the globe ‘s
Still working...”



CLIMATE



Ireland - A Watery, Insect Rich Landscape

AREA OF IRELAND

84421km²

3% WATER AREA

2532km²

Anyone who visits the lough shore in May and early June cannot help but be affected by the Chironomid Midge, commonly known as the Lough Neagh fly. Those who live near the shore know never to open the windows and definitely never of an evening when the electric light is switched on. Despite their annoyance, they don't bite, but boy oh boy, they swarm!



LOUGH NEAGH FLY



MIDGES



BLANKET BOG



MIDGE

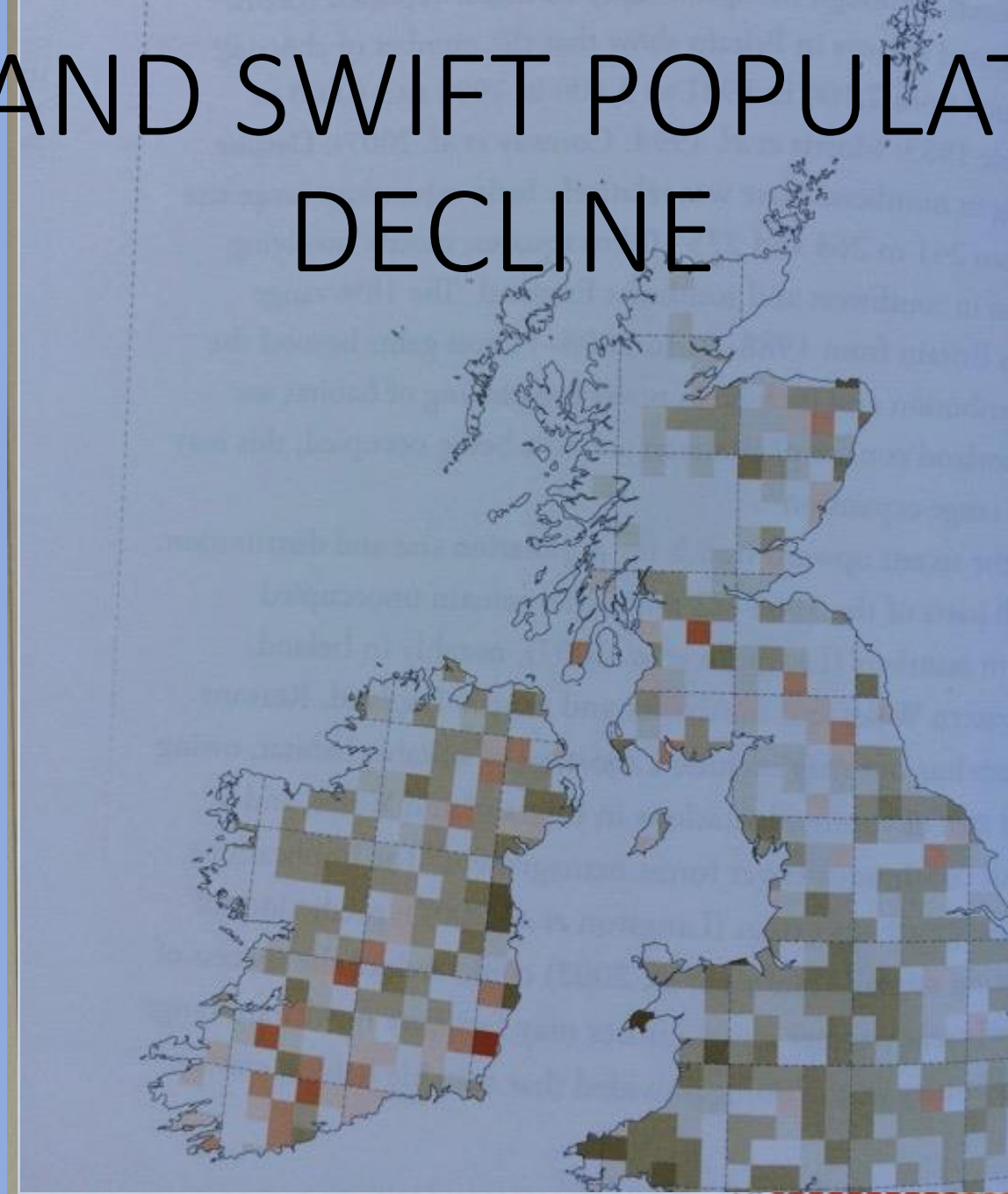


SWIFTS VIEW

BLANKET BOG
RAISED BOG
LAKES
RIVERS

IRELAND SWIFT POPULATION DECLINE

Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain
and Ireland 1976
BTO & Irish Wildbird Conservancy



Bird Atlas 2007-2011
Ireland 38% to 46% Decline

CAUSES OF THE DECLINE?



VESTPORT QUAY BUILT IN 1800 CENTURY



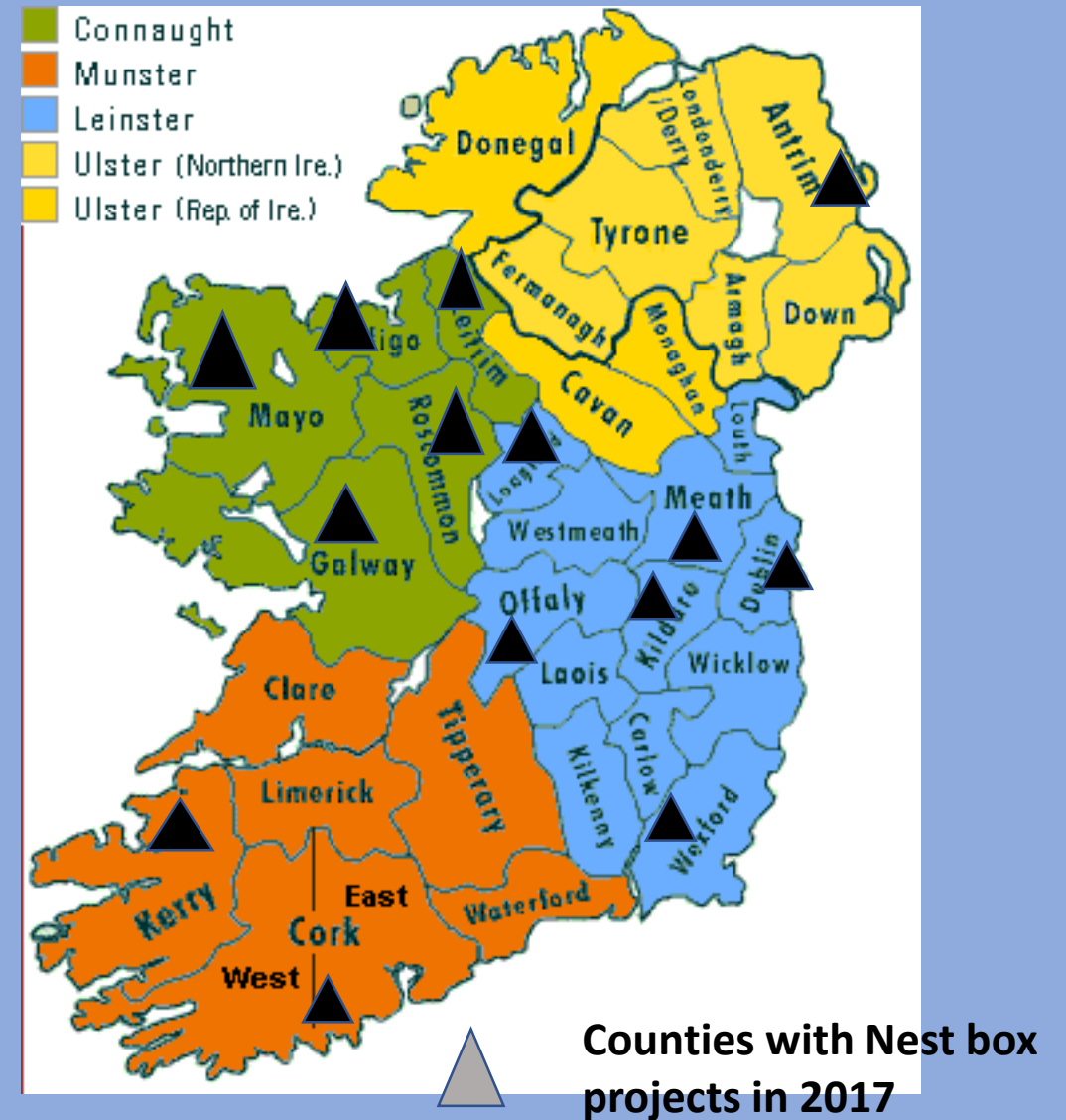
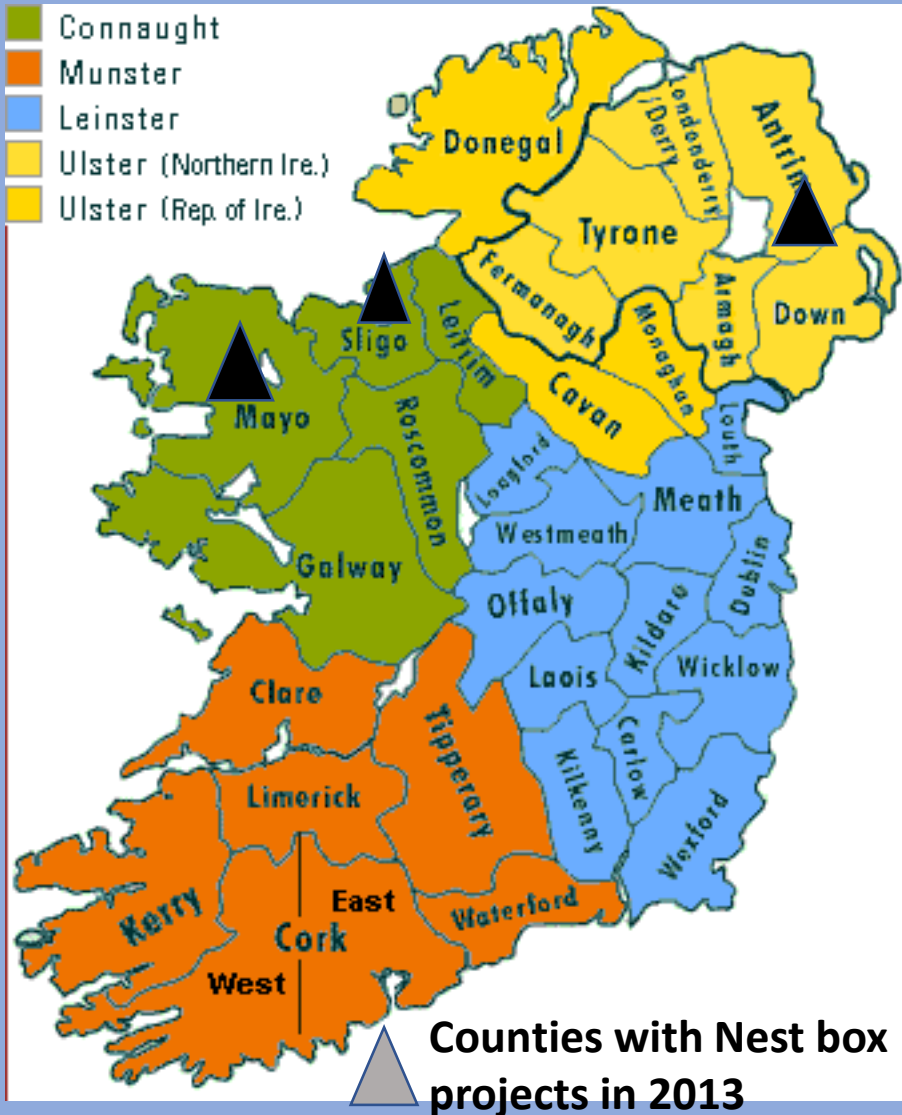
CONVERTED TO
SHOPS, APARTMENTS IN 1999.



CAUSE OF THE DECLINE- 2?



RECOVERING THE POPULATION



COUNTY MAYO – next stop America!

R.F. Ruttledge “Birds of Counties Galway and Mayo” 1989

”An increase first noticeable about 1932 led to an extension of the breeding range to western seaboard towns Has bred in Achill and Belmullet . Recorded nesting numerous on cliffs on Rathlin Island 1900
Ussher and Warren.



Plan to attract back to these areas.

- Home to Great Western Lakes (Conn, Corrib, Mask) plus many other lakes, rivers and lots of bogs.
- Rich in flying insects including The Midge
- Agriculture
- Impact of slurry on water quality and insect population

COUNTY MAYO



8% Increase in breeding population since 2013 through nest boxes (184). A positive example for the rest of the country



<http://swiftconservation.ie/gmit-swifcams/>

Swift Conservation Ireland

WE ARE SWIFTS, WE ARE IN TROUBLE!	NEST BOX ADVICE	REHABILITATION	INFORMATION BY COUNTY	SURVEY ADVICE	GMIT SWIFTCAMS
EVENTS	PHOTO GALLERY	MEDIA ARTICLES	WORLD-WIDE NEWS	IMPORTANT AND USEFUL LINKS	ARTS AND LITERATURE
CONTACT DETAILS					COMMENTS

Media Articles

Any media articles relating to Swifts will be added to this page as they are sourced. Select a link below to view the article.

- SWIFTS BRING GREAT DRAMA AND EXCITEMENT TO THE SKIES.
- SWIFT CONSERVATION MAYO'S CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH ON EUROPEAN AND CHINESE COMMON SWIFTS 2015.
- SWIFT TOWER – IRISH NEWS.

Extract from "Living the Wildlife" Episode 5 aired on RTÉ in November 2016 featuring Swifts in Mayo by Colin Stafford-Johnson, a Gillian Marsh production.

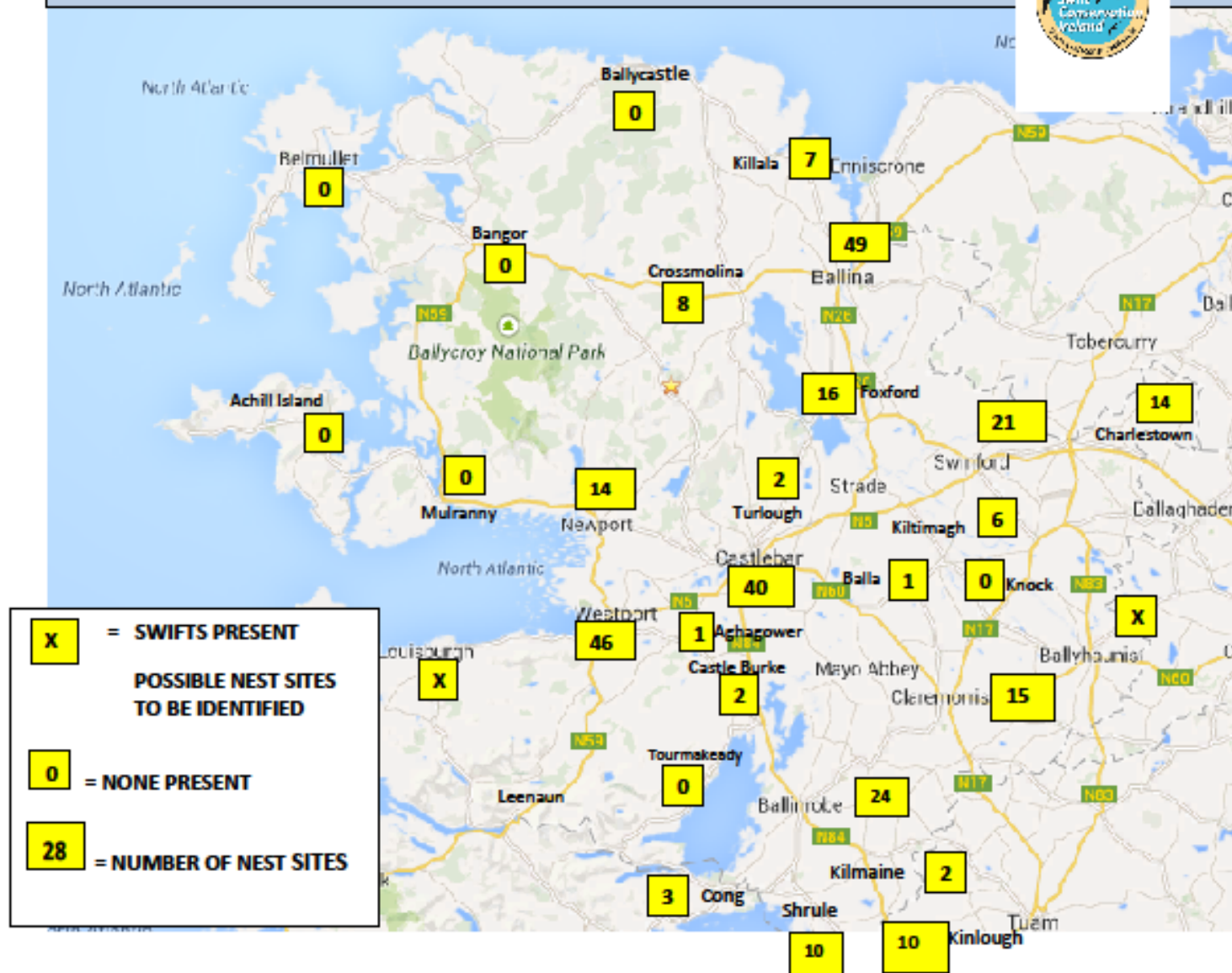
swifts rte

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Pages

- We are swifts, we are in trouble!
- Nest Box Advice
- Rehabilitation
- Information By County
- Survey Advice
- GMIT Swiftcams
- Events
- Photo Gallery
- Media Articles
- World-Wide News
- Important and Useful Links
- Arts and Literature
- Comments

COMMON SWIFT – COUNTY MAYO - KNOWN STATUS – 2017



Town	Nest Sites	Nest box Projects
Achill Island	0	0
Aghagower	1	0
Balla	1	1 (3)
Ballina	49	1 (6)
Ballinrobe	28	1 (6)
Ballycastle	0	0
Ballycroy	0	In 2018
Ballyhaunis	?	In 2018
Bangor	0	In 2018
Belmullet	0	In 2018
Castle Burke	2	0
Castlebar	37	4 (48) (12)
Charlestown	14	1 (6)
Claremorris	15	2 (9) (2)
Cong	3	1 (6)
Crossmolina	8	1 (6)
Foxford	16	1 (12)
Killala	7	1 (6)
Kilmaine	2	0
Kiltimagh	6	1 (6)
Kinlough Castle	10	0
Knock	0	0
Louisburgh	?	In 2018
Mulranny	0	0
Newport	14	1 (6)
Shrule	10	1 (6)
Swinford	21	1 (6)
Tourmakeady	0	0
Turlough	2	In 2018
Westport	46	4 (24) (9)
	291	23 (156) (23)
		Figures in () = occupied nest boxes

Co Antrim and Belfast



Glens of Antrim Swift Box Project

It is estimated that Swift numbers have fallen by up to 50% in the last 25 years. One of the main causes for this decline is a lack of nesting sites that would have been found in old buildings. This project set about creating new nesting sites in the towns and villages in the Glens of Antrim in partnership with local schools, businesses & other groups between 2015-2017.



One Incredible Journey

2000 bilingual leaflets produced by pupils of Gaelscoil an Chaisil, which were distributed across the Glens



New Nest Box Sites

-  6 Towns / Villages
-  9 Schools
-  1 Golf Club
-  1 GAA Club
-  9 Other Buildings



135 Nest Boxes 1 Swift Tower 5 Swift Callers



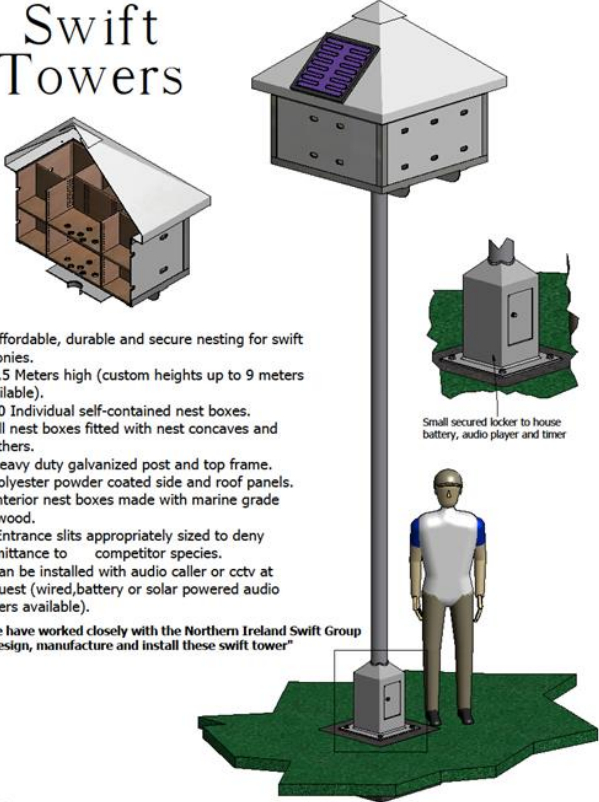
147 New Available Nests





In addition to all partner organisations listed a special thanks goes out to Brian Cahalane of All Swift Group, local swift expert Peter McGarratt and all other volunteers who helped out. We would also like to thank the teachers and pupils from Gaelscoil an Chaisil for their efforts in delivering the project in Ballycastle.

Swift Towers



- * Affordable, durable and secure nesting for swift colonies.
- * 4.5 Meters high (custom heights up to 9 meters available).
- * 20 Individual self-contained nest boxes.
- * All nest boxes fitted with nest concaves and feathers.
- * Heavy duty galvanized post and top frame.
- * polyester powder coated side and roof panels.
- * Interior nest boxes made with marine grade plywood.
- * Entrance slits appropriately sized to deny admittance to competitor species.
- * Can be installed with audio caller or cctv at request (wired,battery or solar powered audio callers available).

"We have worked closely with the Northern Ireland Swift Group to design, manufacture and install these swift tower"

STONEFORD ENGINEERING LTD
General,Structural & Architectural Engineering

27 Morris Avenue Road, Stranmillis, Dublin 15, Ireland
Tel: 01 832 5444 / 01 832 5445 / 01 832 5446
Email: info@stonefordeng.co.uk
Website: www.stonefordeng.co.uk



Health Warning! - It can become an addiction!



ARRIVAL TIMES

FIRST HATCH OF LOUGH NEAGH FLIES MID APRIL
SECOND HATCH JUNE
THIRD HATCH AUGUST

FIRST SWIFTS USUALLY AT LOUGH NEAGH
11TH APRIL ONWARDS



OXFORD
ISLAND



BOX BI 2014

ADULT ON NEST
16TH APRIL

SECOND ADULT
24TH APRIL

FIRST EGG
9TH MAY

FLEDGING
8TH JULY

LAST ADULT
18TH AUGUST

41 DAYS

BOX BI 2015

ADULT ON NEST
16TH APRIL

SECOND ADULT
24TH APRIL

FIRST EGG
1ST MAY

FLEDGING
5TH JULY

LAST ADULT
18TH AUGUST

44 DAYS

BOX B1 2017

ADULT ON NEST
18TH APRIL

SECOND ADULT
23RD APRIL

FIRST EGG
3RD MAY

FLEDGING
12TH JULY

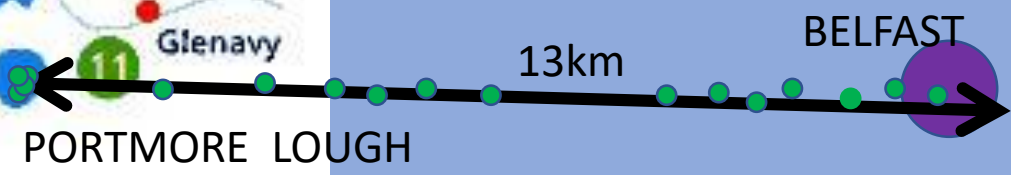
LAST ADULT
11TH SEPTEMBER

61 DAYS

GPS TRACKERS



MARK'S HOUSE

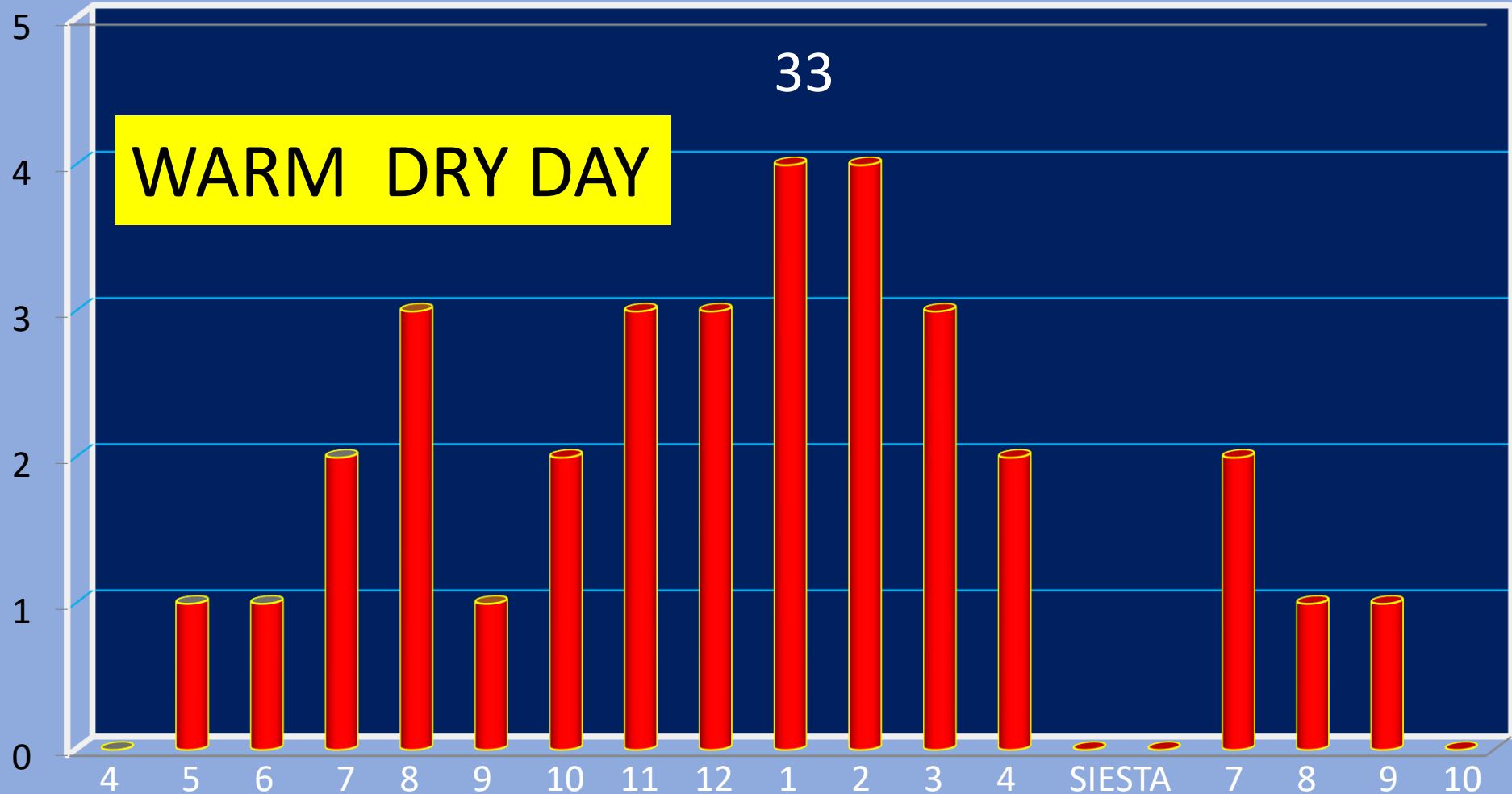


- Golf club
- River Lagan
- 3 Reservoirs
- River
- Portmore Lough
- Lough Neagh

TOTAL NO OF VISITS JUNE 23rd 2011

NO
OF
VISITS.

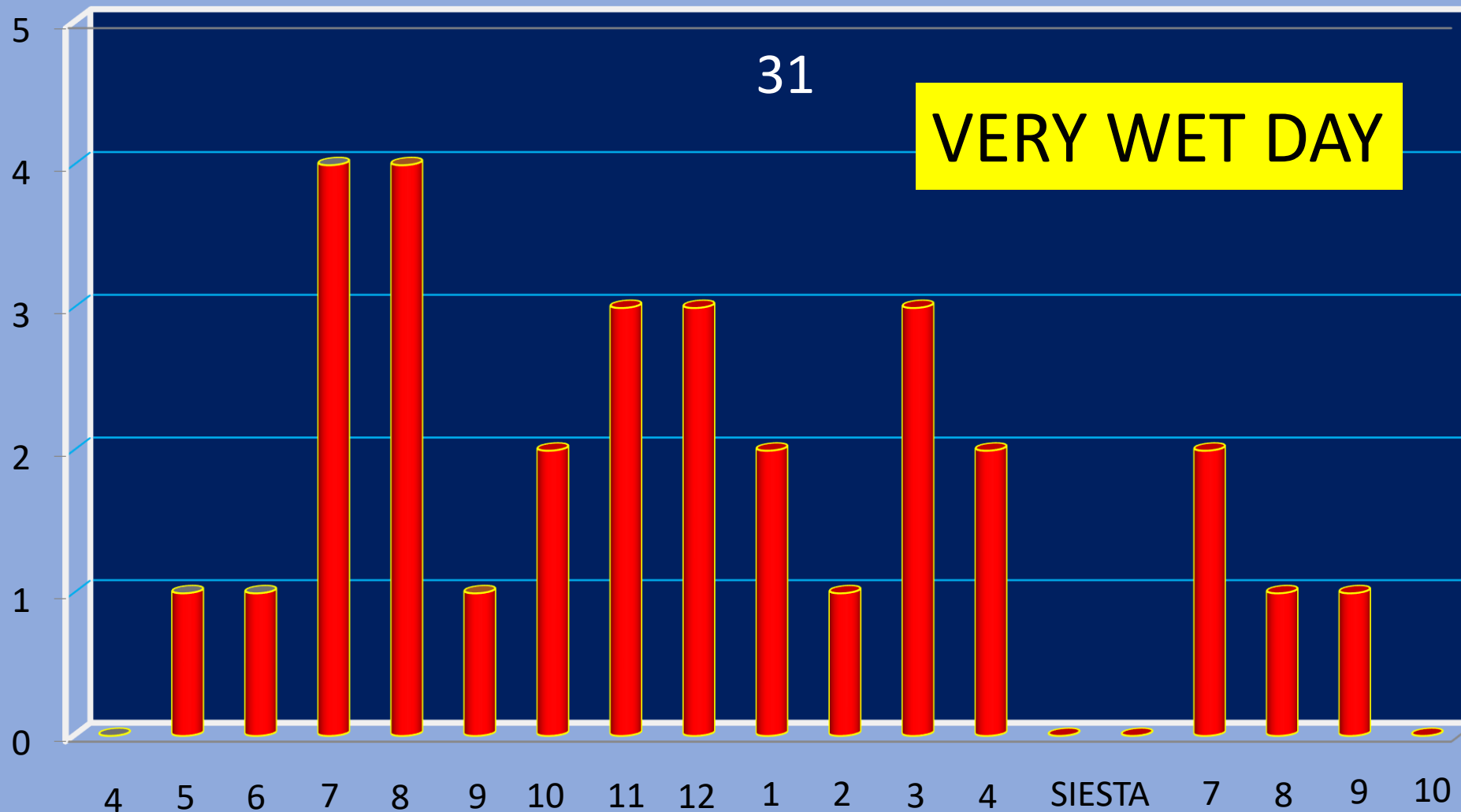
HOURS.



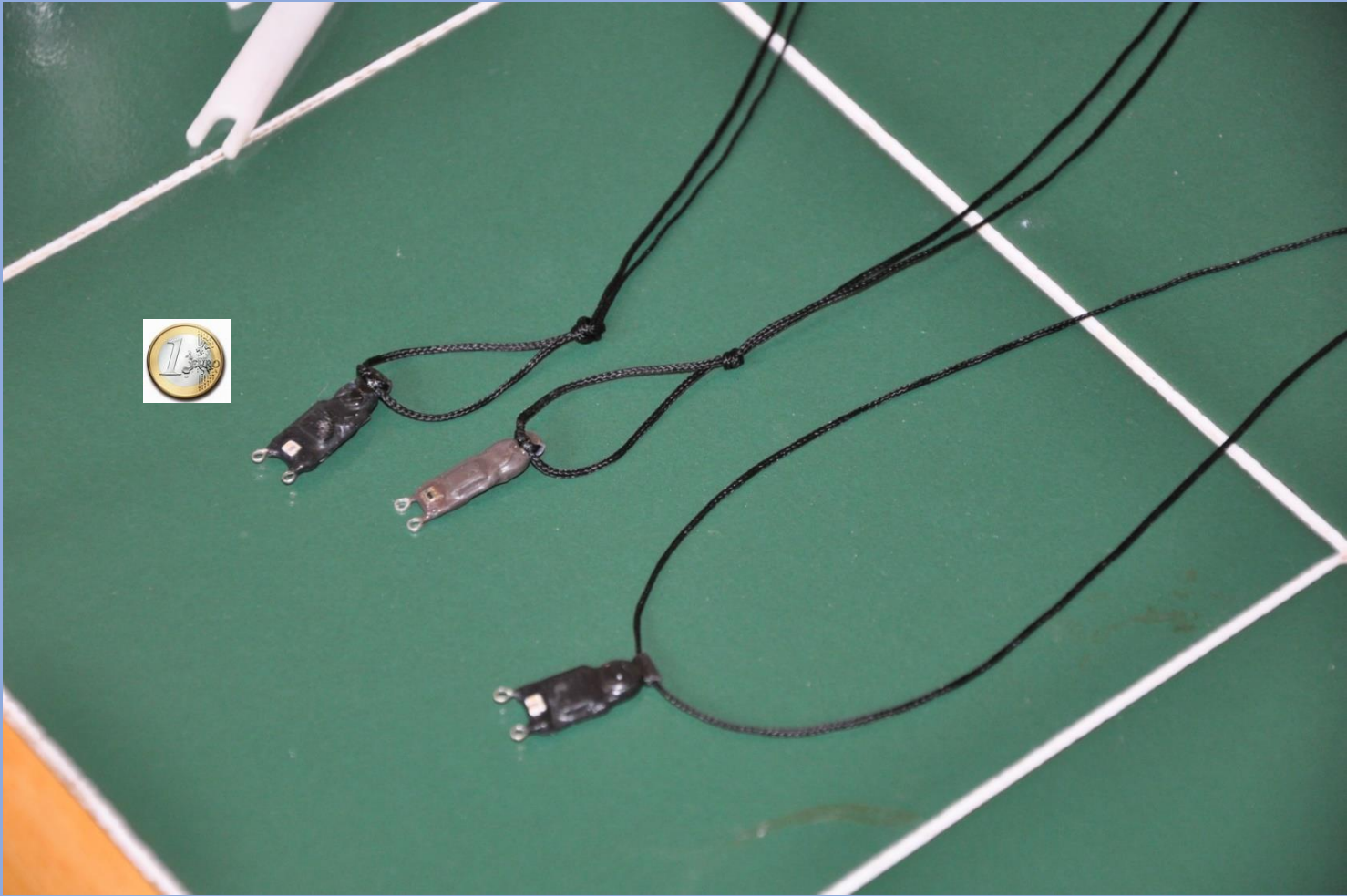
TOTAL NO OF VISITS JUNE 24th 2011

NO
OF
VISITS.

HOURS.



GPS LONG RANGE TRACKERS









Welcome back swifts to Antrim



Working Together for the Swifts



DEPARTURE

THOMAS GRAY

**"AND LEAVES THE WORLD TO
DARKNESS AND TO ME"**

THANK YOU

