

Swift friendly buildings in Thessaloniki

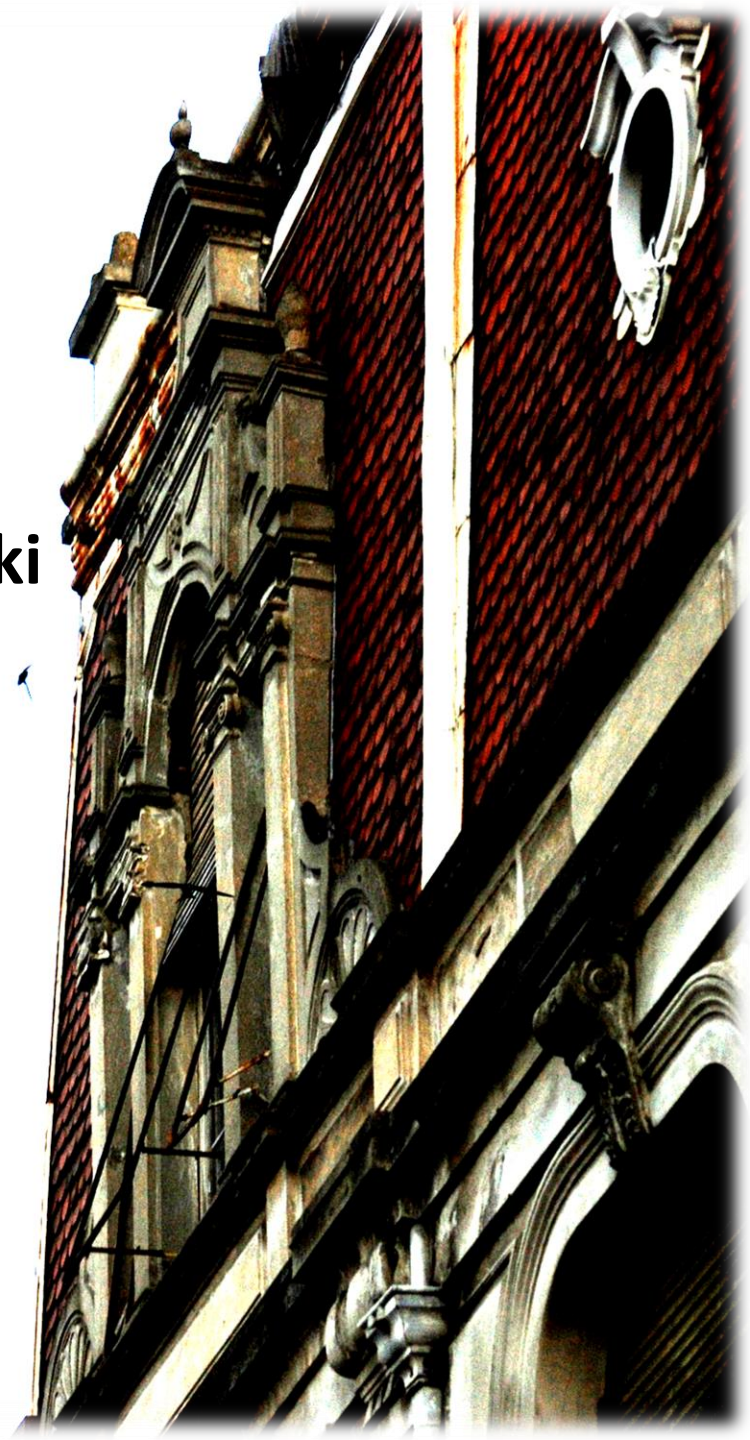
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The 5th International Swift Conference

Tel Aviv, Israel 2018



Action for Wildlife



Who we are



First aid & rehabilitation centre dedicated to:

care of injured wild animals

environmental awareness

} Northern Greece

Support: **completely by volunteers** (veterinaries, biologists, foresters and volunteers without any relative specialization)

about more than 1500 injured wild animals every year



Swift friendly buildings in Thessaloniki

🌀 Swift Conference in Szczecin

Presentation: RSPB Swift Cities: Working together to give swifts a home in the UK

🌀 Nests with nestlings at the rehabilitation centre because of ameliorations/renovations

🌀 Thessaloniki seems to have a good swift population

But the public awareness is very low

🌀 Master thesis → Population and nest site selection of Common Swift (*Apus apus*) in Thessaloniki (Parcharidou, 2014)



Thessaloniki



Species of Swifts in Thessaloniki



Common swift



Pallid swift



Alpine swift



Protection of swifts in Greece by the law:

📌 Red Data /book



Europe: Least Concern

Greece: Not Evaluated

📌 Law for the protection of nest of every bird in breeding season
(law: 37338/1807/E.103 FEK (OGG) 1495 B legal clause 6 paragraph 1b)

Places where swifts usually nest in Thessaloniki



- into niches
- into bricks
- between windows & walls
- into crannies
- under tiles
- under air conditions
- in gutter



Parcharidou, 2014)



Parcharidou, 2014)

Parcharidou, 2014)

Restorations/Renovations in Thessaloniki

- ⌚ Preservation of buildings

- ⌚ Amelioration/renovation of buildings e.g. heat insulation, painting the walls (use of protected nets during breeding period), changing the frames of windows & doors

- ⌚ Restoration of buildings

destroy of the place that swifts use as nests

change of use → buildings becoming friendly to people but unfriendly to swifts

During the breeding season



Aim of the project

The project starts officially on Spring 2018

- ☉ to create a core of buildings friendly to Swifts, through preservation of the existing nests
- ☉ to prevent the destruction of the nests because of renovation/ restoration/ amelioration
- ☉ to be officially included “in the plan” of the renovation process
- ☉ to continuously increase the number of buildings taking part in the project
- ☉ to raise awareness through the special signs (inscription) of the buildings
- ☉ ringing the birds and monitoring the nests where this is possible without annoyance
- ☉ *In the long term... attempt to include the swifts' nest places to the legislation*



Which are the first steps?

- ⌚ Cooperation with the Service of Modern Monuments and Technical works of northern Greece
- ⌚ Cooperation with community of architects and engineers
- ⌚ Cooperation with the owners of the buildings



Obligations of buildings joining the project

- ⌚ Avoid the operations during the breeding season
- ⌚ If operations are necessary during the breeding season: Preserve and protect nests during operations.
 - no extreme noises
 - no vibrations
 - no protective nets & scaffolds or other constructions that block the entrance to the nest
- ⌚ Preserve and protect the nests after the end of operations. The use of the buildings should be swift friendly at all times.



What do we mean by “preserve the nests” ?

🌀 Preserve the structural characteristics of the nest exactly as they are.

So, the entrance of the nest will be the same. (That presuppose that we already know where the nest is).

🌀 If the nest can not be preserved as it is: Should be replaced in the best way for the birds.



Buildings joining the project will be given an inscription

- ☞ That the building is part of the swift friendly buildings net
- ☞ The date that the building joined the project
- ☞ The number of the nests (if this is known)
- ☞ Informations about the Swift's species that nest in the bulding

The list of buildings will be published at the organization's website



Swift friendly building

Logo of the project

This building is certified as Swift friendly since *(month of year)*. The Swift friendly buildings protect and preserve the Swifts' nests. These birds nest under tiles, into niches, into crannies and in various tiny openings of the buildings. Often, during restoration/amelioration of a building the available nest places and the nests themselves are destroyed.

Three Swift species breed in Thessaloniki. The Common Swift, The Pallid Swift and the Alpine Swift.

This building hosts *(number)* nests of *(Swift species)*

(species) Swift lives on air for the biggest part of its life: Eats, sleeps and reproduces while flying! Lands only when it breeds. Lays *(number)* eggs.

Lives around *(number)* years. Arrives in Thessaloniki at middle/end of March and migrates to Africa on September/October/November *(depends on the species)*.



What's the plan for now?

☉ Cooperation with the owners of the buildings ✓

We started with two buildings (unofficially) ✓

☉ Cooperation with the Service of Modern Monuments and Technical works of northern Greece

☉ Cooperation with community of architects and engineers



Difficulties...

- ⌚ Everything proceeds very slowly, except from the birds! Swifts are always on time!
- ⌚ Restoration of a building may need more than a year to be finished!
- ⌚ For the time being, we are not aware of each and every restoration taking place in the city, so it is possible we have already lost and keep losing a number of nests → we hope to change this fact through cooperation with the municipality services



Thank you



Action for Wildlife

