

# **Common Swift (*Apus apus*) in Vienna: distribution and population estimate**

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The Common Swift (*Apus apus*) is a synanthropic bird which breeds at buildings mainly in larger cities. Currently, renovation and thermal insulation of buildings is happening at a high rate in Vienna as well as in many other European cities. This leads to a loss of suitable cavities for house-nesting birds. In 2017 the MA 22 (Municipal Department for Environment Protection of the City of Vienna) conducted a study about nest-sites of the Common Swift (*Apus apus*) in the City of Vienna, Austria. The focus of the study was to identify as many buildings as possible with nest-sites in order to enable target-oriented protection in the future. Therefore, not flying individuals were counted, but buildings with nest-sites that were reported by citizens or already known by the department. In order to map as many buildings as possible, the citizen science approach was chosen. More than 40 volunteers helped to map the number of nest-sites at the reported buildings. The standardized mapping was performed based on the proposed method of nest-site identification by SÜDBECK et al. (2005). The mapping took place in the evening hours, the observation of each building took at least 30 minutes and a nest-site was only counted, when a Common Swift was observed when entering or exiting. Altogether, more than 830 nest-sites have been mapped at about 240 buildings across the city. In the next years the study will be continued to hopefully become an on-going project.

Südbeck, P., Andretzke, H., Fischer, S., Gedeon, K., Schikore, T. Schröder, K. und Sudfeldt, C. (2005): Methodenstandards zur Erfassung der Brutvögel Deutschlands. – Radolfzell.