



Overton Biodiversity Society

Promoting wildlife in the parish for the enjoyment of all

House Martin Survey 2014 Identification sheet



House Martin *Delichon urbica*

The House Martin is a small bird with glossy blue-black upper parts and pure white under parts. It has a distinctive white rump with a forked tail and, on close inspection, white feathers covering its legs and toes. The bird's mud nest is usually sited below the eaves of buildings.

Swift *Apus apus*

The Swift is a medium-sized aerial bird, which is a superb flier. It even sleeps on the wing! It is plain sooty brown, but in flight against the sky it appears black. It has long, scythe-like wings and a short, forked tail. The bird's nest is usually hidden in roofing areas, being out of sight unlike both House Martin and Swallow



Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Swallows are small birds with dark, glossy-blue backs, red throats, pale underparts and long tail streamers. They are extremely agile in flight and spend most of their time on the wing. The bird's nest is usually in the interior of a building such as a barn or stable, the nest being cup-like and often appearing rather untidy in its build

