

We located a colony of six House Martin nests under the eaves of four houses in Newman Lane. These houses appear to have been selected because the eaves are wider than most others in the village. The nests faced mainly South or East.

We saw low-flying Swifts and Swallows in other parts of the village but located only one Swallow nest in a barn at Sherwood Farm. I suspect there were other Swallow and Swift nests in the older parts of the village, but we were unable to locate any. Two Swallows were seen foraging over Bomfords Estate (particularly around the horse paddock) on 15th May. I suspect these were nesting in an out-house or porch of a garden in the High St.

**House Martins** require wide eaves, a source of mud for nest building.

**Swallows** mainly nest in buildings with outside access, such as out-houses, stables, porches or barns. They too require a source of mud.

**Swifts** require access to a roof space or other cavity in a building. Potential nest-sites are generally not found in houses built after the 1940s nor in houses in which the roof area has been renovated.

All three species need a source of flying insects. Swallows and Martins are particularly attracted to grazing horses, cattle or manure heaps where flies are breeding in cow-pats, manure etc. Swifts feed at higher altitude and will range further than hirundines and are not particularly dependent on grazing animals.