



RENOVATIONS AND SWIFTS

Urban biodiversity threatened

January 2022



An intense renovation activity is affecting buildings, historical and contemporary. Unfortunately, projects and construction sites ignore that buildings are often rich in biodiversity, because they are also inhabited by swifts, migratory insectivores that come from Africa to nest, occupying cavities offered by different architectural peculiarities, briefly discussed here, with links and QR codes of reference. **Everywhere these cavities and their accesses are erased because of an understandable but poorly made <<war on pigeons>> which for many years has been adding disaster to damage**, filling our historic downtowns with <dead walls>. This flyer wants briefly to point out the most important aspects of this problem, with the recommendation to **consult the references** reported here and to **contact those who have adequate skills and experiences** to define the locally useful details.

The **MAIN OBJECT** of this poster is the protection of **swifts, species-flag of biodiversity** in buildings, well representative of the needs of many other small wildlife that occupy cavities and therefore benefit from the measures here suggested. The swifts nesting in Italy are of three specie, well differentiated also in reproductive behaviors: **Common Swift, Pale Swift, Alpine Swift**. In the cases here reported and cited, also **Swallow, House martin and Crag martin** are treated.

REFERENCES

- <http://www.monumentivivi.it/>
- http://www.festivaldeirondoni.info/documnti_tecnici_scaricabili



CASE STUDIES

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/888105881297791/media/albums>
- Unpublished cases

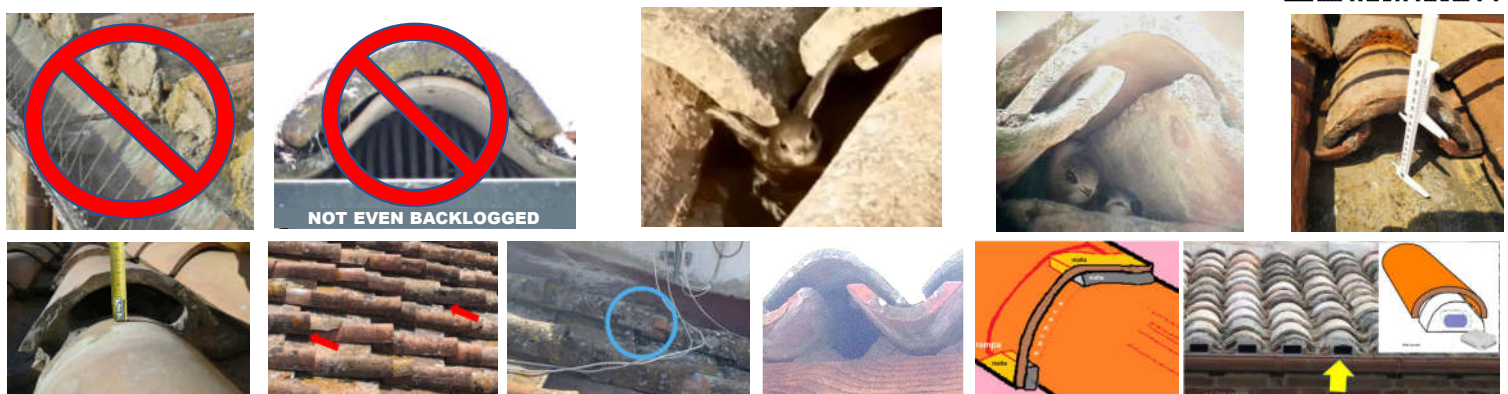
SCAFFOLD HOLES: small fauna threatened by a disastrous fight against pigeons



SELECTIVE HOLES: to exclude pigeons and accommodate swifts and bats



COPPO ROOFS & SIMILAR: keep them cozy for swifts and bats



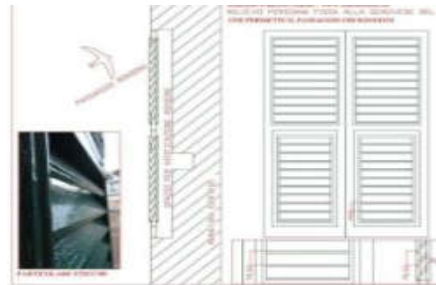
CURRENT CORNICE



CURRENT CORNICE: The spaces between the beams are often covered by infill panels (wood, plastered brick) with cracks and discontinuities that if they are at least 3x6 cm allow the swifts to enter the spaces behind to nest. The colonies that use these sites are numerous. In some cases during the work sites we advised the cracks were respected, or improved or replaced with ad hoc openings.



FALSE WINDOWS



FALSE WINDOWS, with *vasistas* used by swifts, to access behind the false window door. They are often replaced by shutters without *vasistas*.

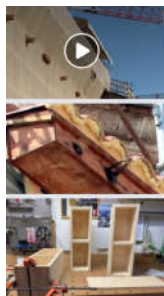


VENTILATION SLOTS



VENTILATIONS SLOTS of walls and floors: important for geckos, bats and swifts, unfortunately they are walled up or closed by nets, as a measure against pigeons that indeed are too large to use them. The works carried out from March to October often bury alive the animals that occupy them.

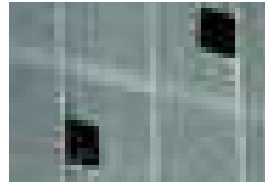
SCAFFOLDINGS, TEMPORARY NESTS AND SAFETY NETS, DURING THE BREEDING SEASON



LINK:
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.1165378863570490&type=3>



safety nets opening in front of nests



SEARCH suggestions in ca. 140 available ALBUMS, with dozens of case studies



CAPOTTING: embedding and hanging nest boxes



ANCIENT SWIFT TOWERS



HOUSE MARTINS AND SWALLOWS



for other cases, see: ALBUMS



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