

How to build a Swallow nest





Helping swallows!

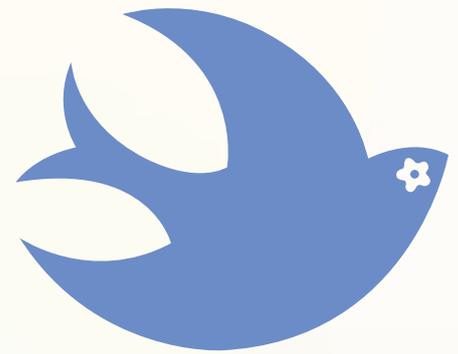
The Barn Swallow is a common bird of our countryside but they are disappearing. Since 1990 population of swallows have decreased by 30% in Europe. Why they are having problems?

1. Pesticides used in the fields reduce the amount of food available to swallows and insects poisoned with
2. *Hirundo rustica* is the scientific name of this bird. "Rustica" means countryside. More and more people move out of town and thus the places where swallows can build their nests get reduced.
3. Swallows are a protected species but there are still many people who destroy their nests.
4. Swallows need mud to build their nests. Sometimes, to find mud in cities become a hard job.

For all these reasons we encourage you to help these great birds. Build a swallow nest is a good way to do it.

Construction Materials

1. A wood board (20x30 cm approximately)
2. A hammer
3. Esparto rope
4. Scissors
5. Moulding compound
6. Wire
7. Nails tool
8. Pliers



Step by Step



1. Cut the esparto rope into small pieces (3 or 4 cm). If you do not have esparto rope you can use straw and dry leaves.

2. Put rope pieces in a bowl with water and wait about 10 minutes to soak.



3. Mix the pieces of rope soaked with moulding compound and knead for a few minutes. The aim of the rope is to avoid cracking upon drying.



4. Draw a trapezium on the wooden board (7 or 8 cm height and a 20 cm length as shown in the photograph).



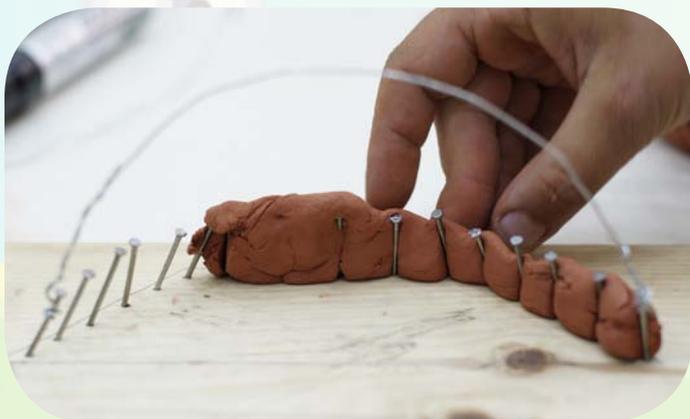
5. Hammer some nails around the trapezium except the top line. With 15 or 20 nails will be enough to support the weight of the structure.



6. Put a piece of wire joining both nails ends in order to make a 8 cm arc.



7. Knead the modeling clay to make tubes to cover the whole trapezium. Put each other from the base to the top.





8. With the help of a pen you can shape the inner part. Be sure to cover all the nails to avoid hurt the future hosted.

9. Draw some lines on the outside of the nest. In this way the nest seem to have been built by a swallow.



10. Let dry for at least 24 hours. Then it is ready to place in your garden or balcony!. Be sure to put it in a place sheltered from the rain.

Did you know?

- 200 million of common swallows fly each year from Europe to Africa
- Usually they eat insects while they are flying
- They are able to return to the same nest after their migration
- *Hirundo rustica* is their Latin name. "Hirundo" means swallow and "rustic" means countryside





 The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa

More information about swallows

- Swallows are in decline
- A great traveler
- What you can do for them?
- Learn how to recognize them
- Bird of the year 2014 of SEO/BirdLife