

Milly Southworth

From: Torpoint Town Council <admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 March 2024 15:53
To: Phil Griffiths; Milly Southworth
Subject: FW: News story for your consideration.
Attachments: Screenshot 2024-03-16 at 12.28.24.png; IMG_1384.JPG

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From: Spike <mike@palmridge.com>
Sent: 25 March 2024 15:05
To: admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: News story for your consideration.

Hi there,
I wonder if you can consider placing this piece on your website or in your newsletter - thank you.

HELPING THE BIRDS

Torpoint man Mike Palmer has set up a bird rehab unit for primarily young or injured Swallows, Swifts and Martins that will be arriving here in late Spring, a journey of over 6000 miles from sub-Saharan Africa, and the Cape. Some individual birds have already been spotted around Cornwall. Mike said “that due to the massive decline in bird numbers worldwide, such a unit was vital in saving these remarkable birds.

It is important that people connect with the natural world and discover the facts relating to other living creatures that share our planet. We are all Earthlings but so few of us have any knowledge of what lives amongst us. The young especially have abandoned the countryside and feel more at home in isolation, spending much of their time engrossed on the Internet.

During the last few years it has become obvious that humans are rapidly turning their backs on nature, wildlife and conservation issues, which has contributed and accelerated the decline and dire sufferings of all creatures within the natural world.”

When asked about the situation regarding current bird populations, Mike said “A few years ago hundreds of thousands of our feathered friends, particularly sea birds were simply erased due to the bird flu pandemic. The UK itself lost more than three-quarters of its great skuas, while northern gannets have declined by 25%. Black-headed gulls, guillemots and kittiwakes were also badly hit, and I remember picking up scores of dead and dying birds along the local beaches at Whitsand Bay. Last year in Antarctica many hundreds of seals were found dead, plus large numbers of penguins, and in the Arctic polar bears have also died, all succumbing to the H5N1 virus, transmitted by birds.

Millions of our feathered friends have been lost and since 1980, one out of every six birds has died, that’s 600 million breeding birds; the UK alone has lost 73 million birds since 1970. Most of the declining species that live in the UK are farmland birds, where a mix of increasingly industrialised agriculture, habitat loss and the climate change is having a severe impact. The stark reality is that future generations will grow up never having heard the call of a cuckoo or a song thrush, or actually being amongst nature to watch the dances of migrant birds like the swifts and swallows. For many, it is a sad fact that such experiences are met with indifference, they are simply irrelevant and so the distance between us and nature widens. It is now time for everybody to acknowledge this continued eradication of wildlife be it in the air or on the ground, and at the very least, we should mourn the loss in Britain of 30 million house sparrows, 20 million starlings, 4 million skylarks, 2 million blackbirds and 1 million chaffinches, over the last five decades.

The saddest thing for me is knowing that despite the savage consequences of the bird flu pandemic, many birds continue to wash up on beaches around the UK every week. In Cornwall, sea birds are often contaminated by crude oil or plam oil waste, which comes from ships when they illegally wash out their tanks while at sea. Cargo spillage is a constant threat and not just to marine life, but enforcing ship owners to uphold safety laws is near impossible and the English Channel remains vulnerable, especially with the increase numbers of Russian oil tankers using these waters.

I realise that my bird rehab unit is a very small step in trying to save this migrant species, but due to the fact that there are so few rescue centres able to take them, I felt that it was time to act.”

The cost of looking after just one individual bird is around £12 per week and so I am asking for donations to help fund the work. Any financial support will be used solely for the bird’s specialist food needs and vitamin diet, and I will not be paid; all of the costs in setting up this project so far have been personally funded. If anybody wishes to donate please visit:- <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bird-rehab>

Thank you.

MIKE PALMER

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Tel 01752 815120



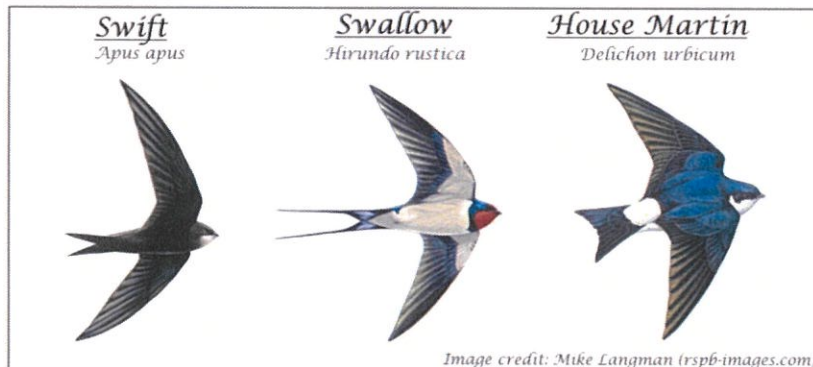
Virus-free www.avg.com

PLEASE DONATE

S. S. M.

Rescue and Rehabilitation unit
TORPOINT

If you see a baby Swift Swallow or Martin
out of its nest and unable to return it



Call Spike
01752 815120

or

Email

messagespike@gmail.com

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BIRDS

PLEASE DONATE

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bird-rehab>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/swallow-swift-martin-bird-rehab-unit-torpoint>

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