



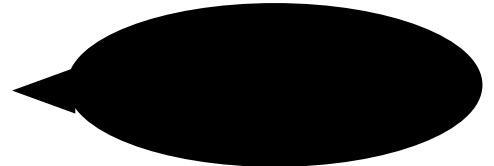
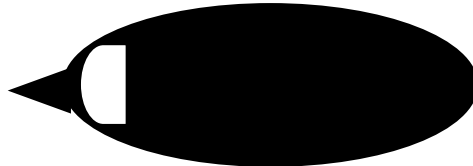
Swift, swallow and martin identification silhouettes

Species

Belly

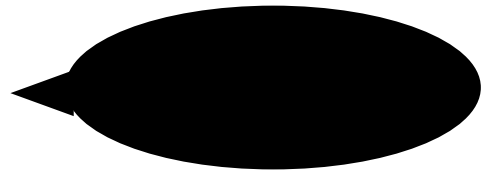
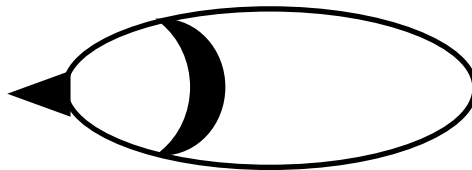
Back

Swift



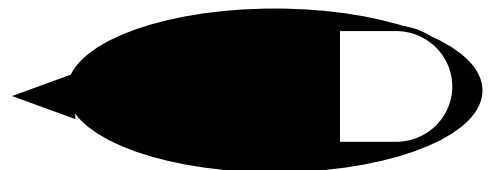
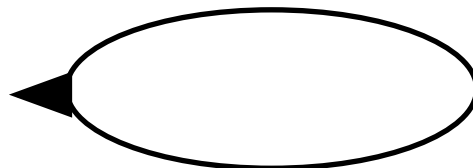
Swifts are not related to swallows and martins but look similar. They have very long wings. They are dark above and dark below apart from an inconspicuous white chin. Swifts make a loud screaming sound.

Sand martin



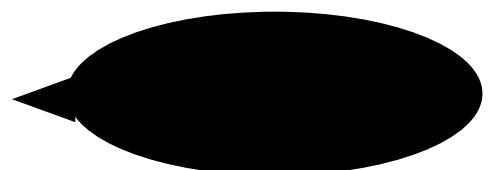
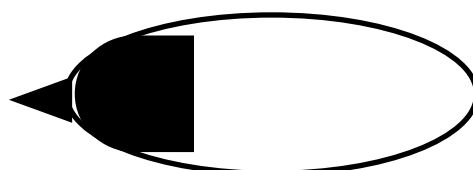
Sand martins are all white below apart from a dark chinstrap. They appear brown and cream. Sand martins make a buzzing sound like electricity around a pylon.

House martin



House martins are all white below and all dark above apart from a very conspicuous white rump. This is best seen against a dark background such as a stand of trees or a dark cloud. They make a clicking sound.

Swallow



Forget the tail, these can vary in length depending on sex and age. From underneath, swallows have dark heads contrasting with a white belly. They make a twittering sound.