Notes on sound system for playing swift attraction calls

by Lynda Huxley – November 2017

++ 353 (0)94 9032422  swiftconservationireland@gmail.com

CD PLAYER

If you use a CD player make sure it has a repeat button. CD players don’t function well with timers so are best used in situations where they can be manually switched on and off, or can be left on permanent play.

CDs with swift attraction calls can be obtained by emailing swiftconservationireland@gmail.com

Location : the cd player should be located as near as possible to the nest boxes. At GMIT in Castlebar we used a cd player for the first two years, until we moved over to an amplifier, and the cd player was located on the window ledge beneath the boxes and it worked very well. The cd player was wrapped in plastic to protect it from the weather but you can place it in a plastic box that has had ventilation holes drilled into it.

AMPLIFIER

Swift Conservation Ireland now uses an amplifier set up because the sound is clearer than a cd player and a timer can fitted to the system if it’s not possible to play calls 24 hours a day.

There is detailed information using an amplifier on the Action for Swifts blog. http://actionforswifts.blogspot.co.uk/search/label/attraction%20calls

In their information, Action for Swifts provide links to suppliers of the equipment.

You can buy the amplifiers through Amazon or Ebay but the suppliers often run out of them. I am currently purchasing them from the link below but with this company you need to order the power supply separately (see note a) below):

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Heny-Sheuy-Amplifier-Control-Motorcycle/dp/B00EEW73A0/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1511030639&sr=1-1&keywords=Heny+Sheuy+amplifier
If you are purchasing items from UK companies you may find that some won’t post to Ireland or the postage charge to Ireland is very high. If this is the case then I recommend using Parcel Motel, you can find details of this service at [http://www.nightline.ie/about/parcel-motel/](http://www.nightline.ie/about/parcel-motel/) Parcel Motel charge about €3.95 to deliver from the NI ParcelMotel address to ROI.

Here is some additional information from me which may be of use if you are based in Ireland.

The following equipment is needed and it has to be purchased separately:

a) Amplifier - It usually comes with a power cable/socket but if it doesn’t see b).

b) Power socket. Some amplifiers come with a power socket but some do not. If the one you purchase does not have a power socket then you can buy one from Handykam in the UK and have them posted directly to Ireland because the postage is only £2.95.

c) Tweeter speaker (if you need extra speaker cable for the tweeter it can be purchased at most electrical or motorparts shops). You can buy tweeters from amazon at the following link [http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B00HR733Y4?psc=1&redirect=true&ref_=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_0_s00](http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B00HR733Y4?psc=1&redirect=true&ref_=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_0_s00)

Or a superior, more expensive, model can be purchased from CPC Farnell Ireland, the Visaton SC5-80HM, and this is the model Swift Conservation Ireland are currently using. You’ll also need to purchase the terminals to connect the amplifier cable to the tweeter. See below details of the parts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mfr. Part No</th>
<th>Manufacturer / Description</th>
<th>Qty Ordered</th>
<th>Line Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STO-1.0T-187N-5</td>
<td>JST (JAPAN SOLDERLESS TERMINALS) STO-1.0T-187N-5 TERMINAL, FEMALE, 4.8X0.5MM</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>€5.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STO-1.0T-110N-8</td>
<td>JST (JAPAN SOLDERLESS TERMINALS) STO-1.0T-110N-8 TERMINAL, FEMALE, 2.8X0.8MM</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>€5.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC5-80HM</td>
<td>VISATON SC5-80HM 0.5&quot; Polycarbonate Tweeter, 60W RMS, 8 Ohm (Magnetically Shielded)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>€90.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d) SD card or USB key onto which the attraction calls are loaded. Purchase 2mb SD cards from the local camera shop or Harvey Norman store.

**Location**: The tweeter can be located next to the nest boxes. We usually use the Genesis or Schwegler No17A triple cavity boxes and install a minimum of two nest boxes at each location. We enclose the tweeter in a plastic box which has had a few ventilation holes drilled in the bottom. This box is then screwed into the wall.
between the nest boxes. We locate it in between the two boxes so that it gets additional protection from the weather.

The tweeter is located outside as near to the boxes as possible, as described above. The amplifier (with or without timer) should be located inside a building or in a protective box so that it is not exposed to the weather.

You can assemble the amplifier call system using the information above, however, if you contact Swift Conservation Ireland, see top of page for contact details, then you may be able to acquire an assembled system from us.

**The Attraction Calls**

The amplifier system uses an SD card or USB key with preloaded calls in mp3. I tend to use an SD card. The swift calls in mp3 format can be obtained by emailing swiftconservationireland@gmail.com

If you need any further information or advice don’t hesitate to contact us.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT TO PLAY ATTRACTION CALLS FOR SWIFTS YOU NEED A LICENCE FROM NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. SWIFT CONSERVATION IRELAND HAS THE REQUIRED LICENCE SO BY PROVIDING US WITH DETAILS OF YOUR PROJECT, AND LINKING IT TO US, WE CAN LINK YOU TO OUR LICENCE,**

---

**SWIFT ATTRACTION CALL SYSTEM**

- Plastic box with speaker inside it. The plastic box is attached to the outside wall near the nest boxes. There small holes drilled in the bottom of the box to allow the sound to be heard.
- Amplifier
- The timer is plugged into the wall socket and then the amplifier is plugged into the timer. This way the calls can be played at the optimum times of day i.e., 8 to 11 am and 8 to 11 pm.
- SD Card with attraction calls recorded onto it.