giving nature a home

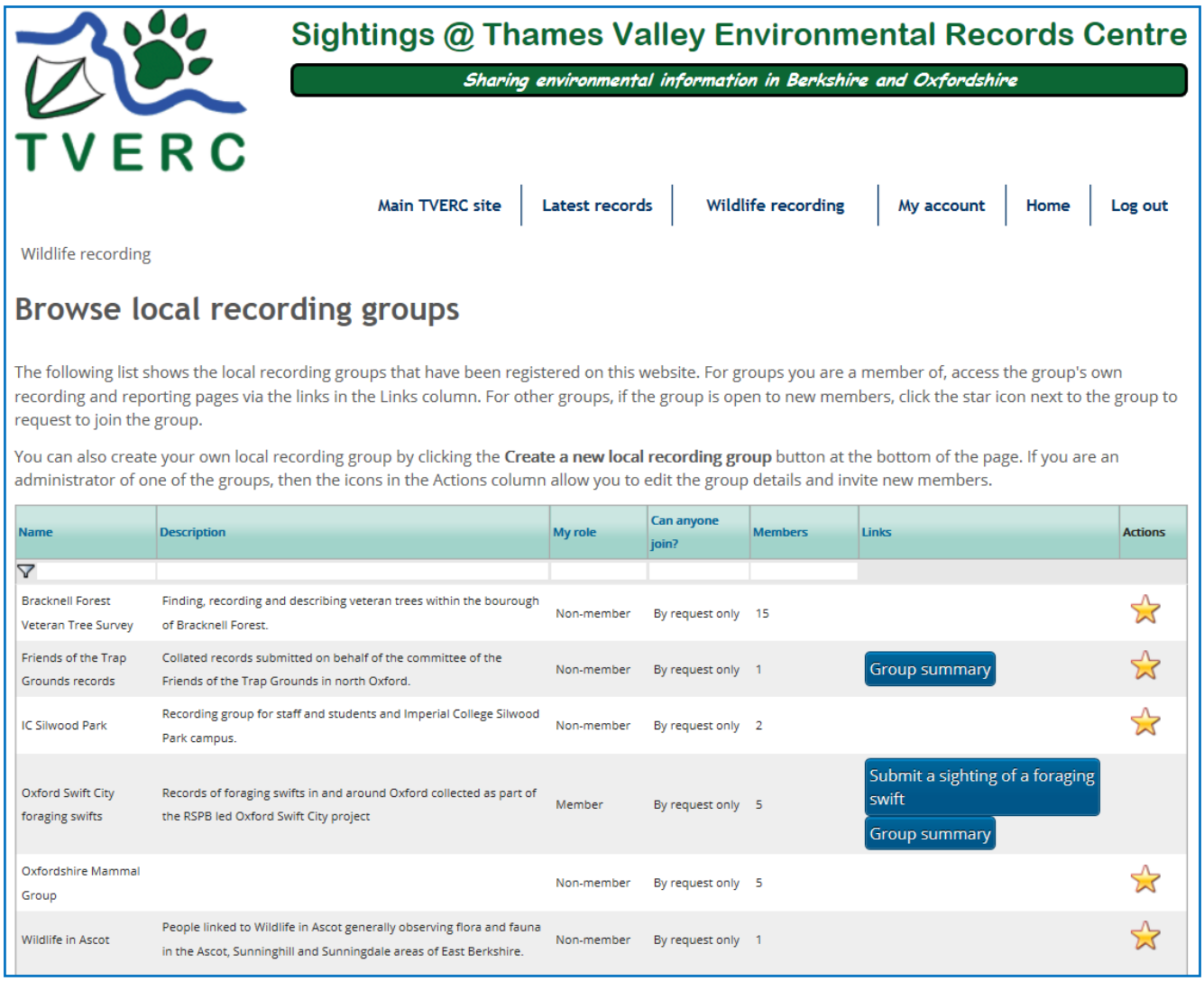
Sightings @ Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

http://sightings.tverc.org/

Help us collect information on foraging swifts by recording your sightings on the ‘Oxford Swift City Foraging Swifts’ database, on the TVERC Sightings website.

After creating a log-in, hover over the ‘Wildlife recording’ tab and click on ‘Local recording groups’. Click the star on the right to request to join the ‘Oxford Swift City foraging swifts’ group.

Once your request has been confirmed, you’ll be able to submit a sighting, or view the existing records.



TVERC

Sightings @ Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

Sharing environmental information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire

Main TVERC site | Latest records | Wildlife recording | My account | Home | Log out

Wildlife recording

Browse local recording groups

The following list shows the local recording groups that have been registered on this website. For groups you are a member of, access the group's own recording and reporting pages via the links in the Links column. For other groups, if the group is open to new members, click the star icon next to the group to request to join the group.

You can also create your own local recording group by clicking the **Create a new local recording group** button at the bottom of the page. If you are an administrator of one of the groups, then the icons in the Actions column allow you to edit the group details and invite new members.

Name	Description	My role	Can anyone join?	Members	Links	Actions
Bracknell Forest Veteran Tree Survey	Finding, recording and describing veteran trees within the bourough of Bracknell Forest.	Non-member	By request only	15		
Friends of the Trap Grounds records	Collated records submitted on behalf of the committee of the Friends of the Trap Grounds in north Oxford.	Non-member	By request only	1	Group summary	
IC Silwood Park	Recording group for staff and students and Imperial College Silwood Park campus.	Non-member	By request only	2		
Oxford Swift City foraging swifts	Records of foraging swifts in and around Oxford collected as part of the RSPB led Oxford Swift City project	Member	By request only	5	Submit a sighting of a foraging swift Group summary	
Oxfordshire Mammal Group		Non-member	By request only	5		
Wildlife in Ascot	People linked to Wildlife in Ascot generally observing flora and fauna in the Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale areas of East Berkshire.	Non-member	By request only	1		

giving nature a home

Descriptions of feeding swifts are given, compared with screaming parties or ‘commuting’ swifts.

Submit a sighting of a foraging swift

Where do swifts dine out?

We want to know more about where swifts prefer to feed in Oxfordshire, and if they change their feeding behaviour under certain weather conditions. Help us by recording your sightings of feeding swifts here.

How do I know when swifts are feeding?

Swifts may feed at any height, anywhere, depending on where the insects are. When swifts are feeding they tend to:

(1) be silent – noisy screaming parties (whether low down or high up) are assumed not to be feeding but can be recorded on the RSPB Swift Survey

(2) fly quite slowly and erratically, whether in loose groups or alone: they may flutter and switch direction and height frequently to hunt down individual insects by sight

(3) linger in a favoured area, making repeated passes. In contrast, screaming parties tend to be close to their urban colonies and “commuting” or migrating swifts tend not to stick around – they will pass over, probably flying fairly steadily in one direction.

Note it is very rare to be able to see a swift actually catch prey. Most of the insects they hunt are too small and quick for us to spot from the ground. But it can help to look at the surroundings – are the swifts over a wetland with lots of bugs flying around, or hunting in the lee of a wood on a windy day, or is there a major insect “hatch” going on, like queen ants taking flight on a muggy summer’s day?

Date: Click here *
Select the date of the record.

Recorder Name: Hyde, Lucy *
Edit this if recorder's name is different from above

Identified By:
If anyone helped with the identification please enter their name here

Species: *
Enter the species name using * as a wildcard

Certainty:
How certain of this identification are you?

Quantity:
Provide an indication of the abundance

Height of swifts: *

Record comment:
Use this to tell us any other important information about the sighting

Add photo

In addition to the written information, you can also upload a photo, and pinpoint your sighting on a map.

To quickly move the map to your location enter the parish name in the search box below and press search.

Location:
If you use an address this will be visible to other users of this site.

Enter a spatial reference: *
Click on the map to obtain a grid reference. Zoom in to get a higher resolution. Use 6 or 8 figure references wherever possible.

Or search for a place on the map:
Search

Or simply click on your rough position on the map.

Habitat:
Please indicate the habitat where you saw the swift

Comment:
Use this to tell us any other important information about the sighting

Submit