As you know, the Tisbury and District Natural History Society is trying to encourage breeding swifts in and around the village. Several new nest boxes have been installed on buildings this spring, some with sound systems incorporated to play swift calls to attract new breeders.

We now want to collect information about how many birds there are in and around the village, how many are nesting, and how successful they are being. This will give us a baseline against which to judge success in years to come.

To do this we are seeking people to spare some time to go out in July and record what swifts they see and nests they can find over a prescribed part of the village. We hope you might be prepared to take this on for one part of the village. It will only involve a few summer evenings and should be fun and some pleasant exercise if nothing else.

Attached is a sheet setting out instructions on how to carry out the survey and a recording sheet. Please read this carefully and if you have any queries get in touch with me, Andrew Graham on *drumble55@hotmail.com*.

We have split the village up into a small number of areas and need people to volunteer to survey one area each – probably closest to where they live. (N.B. area A is already allocated as I will be doing that one.)

Note we are not interested in records of swifts flying around and above the village during the day; our focus is the screaming parties near dusk as these are the key to identifying local colonies.

Please get back to me on this email address as soon as you can to let me know whether or not you can help with this, and if so, which area would be your preference. I can then send you a larger scale map of that area to print off and annotate as you carry out the survey.

Thank you in anticipation.

Andrew