

Feeding



Alpine swifts spend most of their lives in the air. They fly with their *beaks* open and catch small insects directly in the air. When the weather is nice, alpine swifts can be seen high up in the air. This is where insects fly in large numbers then. When the weather is bad, alpine swifts search for swarms of mosquitoes just above the water. If it's cold and wet for several days, there aren't enough insects in the air. Then the swifts may fly all the way down to Ticino from north of the Alps to get food for their young. Alpine swifts are fast flyers and real acrobats. When hunting, their speed can reach up to 180 kilometres per hour. Although they usually fly around in *flocks*, they manage to get out of the way of each other.



Alpine swifts drink while flying across water. They open the lower part of their beak and hold it just below the *surface*. Sometimes they even take a short bath *on the wing*.

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| <i>beak</i> | Schnabel |
| <i>flock</i> | Schwarm |
| <i>surface</i> | Oberfläche |
| <i>on the wing</i> | im Flug |