



# Sand Martin - *Gabhlán Gainimh*

## Migration/Imirce

March to September

Márta go Meán Fómhair

Over 5,000 Km each way each year

Níos mó ná 5,000 km gach bealach gach bliain

October to February



Artificial Sand Martin Nesting Bank built in 2021  
*Banc Neadaithe Gabhlán Gainimh tógtha in 2021*



Latin Name / *Ainm Laidine* - *Riparia riparia*.

Members of the Swallow family  
*Baill de theaghlach Fáinleog*

Length / *Fad* - 12cm

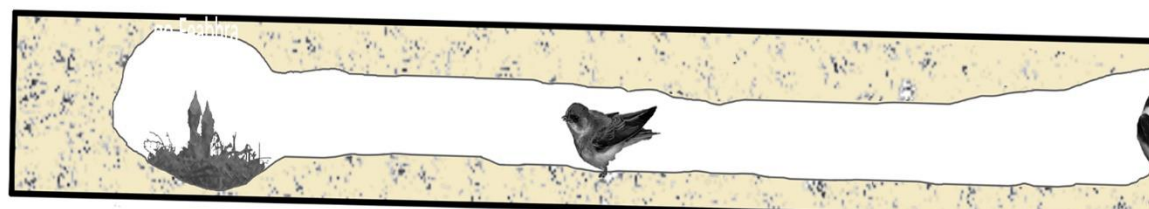


Weight/ *Meáchan*  
14grms  
or two €1 coins  
*nó dhá bhonn €1!*

The Nest – Feathers, grass and leaves in a burrow 45-90cm long. Both males and females dig out the burrow and nest chamber.

*An Nead – Cleití, féar agus duilleoga i bpoll 45-90cm ar fad. Déanann fireannaigh agus bainearnaigh araon an poll agus an seomra nead a thochailt amach.*

Young Sand Martins ready to fly  
*Gabhlán Gainimh óga réidh chun eitilt*



Food: Insects caught in flight. Both parents feed the young, up to 7000 insects a day!

*Bia: Feithidí gafa ar eitilt. An dá chuismitheoir beatha na n-óg, suas go 7000 Feithidí in aghaidh an lae!*

4 - 5 Young / *Neadaithe*

45-90cm Burrow in Sand / *Tollán i Gaineamh*

The young fly from their nesting burrow when 19-24 days old. They usually raise two families each summer. They leave Ireland any time from late July to September

*Eitlíonn na hóg óna bpoll neadaithe agus iad 19-24 lá d'aois. De ghnáth tosaíonn siad dhá theaghlach gach samhradh. Fágann siad Éire am ar bith ó dheireadh Iúil go Meán Fómhair.*



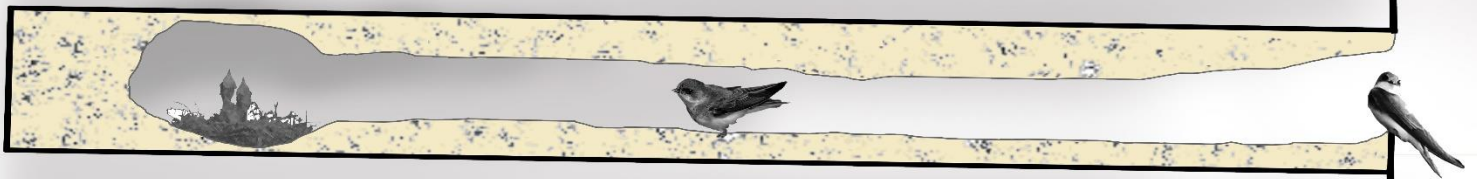
Nest Bank Construction Manual  
SCAN ME

# Anatomy of a Harper's Island Nesting Burrow

4 - 5 Young

45-90cm long Burrow in Sand

Entrance



**Nest Building:** by both birds, taking up to 14 days; average 4.5 days. Once burrow is about 8 cm deep, digging proceeds at about 13 cm per day. A circular saucer shaped depression is excavated by both birds at the back of the burrow by digging with their feet. Nest built in this depression in a further 1-3 days, started immediately tunnel complete. Usually begun by the male, continued by both, completed by the female. Our Sand Martins usually use dead vegetation such as grass and also feathers.

**Eggs and Incubation:** 1st egg laid up to 8 days after nest completed. Eggs white, weigh about 1.4g. each. Clutch size: 2-6 eggs, average 5. Once all eggs are laid both parents take turns to incubate the eggs. Eggs usually hatch 14-15 days after incubation starts. They can raise two families (broods) in one summer. 2nd clutch normally laid in refurbished 1st-brood nest, though tunnel sometimes lengthened a little and a new nest built. Period between fledging of 1st brood and start of 2nd clutch about 7-8 days.

**Fledging:** The young fly from their nesting burrow when 19-24 days old. They leave Ireland any time from late July to September