



Estimated dehydration % x body weight (g) = fluid deficit (ml)

For example:

- A bird weighing 30 g with dehydration of 5% would be calculated as: $0.05 \times 30 = 1.5$ ml
- A 30 g bird should be given no more than 0.3 ml, repeating every 15-30 minutes until 3 ml is taken
- A daily maintenance fluid level of about 5% of body weight should also be added, so for a bird weighing 30 g, this would be another 1.5 ml per day

Age [days]	Swift weight [grams]
2 - 5	2 -17
9 - 14	20 - 34
15 - 20	36 - 38
21 - 26	38 - 44
27 - 32	42 - 46
33 - 38	45 - 43
39 - 44	43 - 44
Adult	36 - 52

Swift weight - grams:	Rehydration fluid [ml] to provide per day:	Rehydration fluid [ml] to provide every 15-30 mins:
1	0.05	0.01 up to 0.1 ml
5	0.25	0.05 up to 0.5 ml
10	0.5	0.1 up to 1 ml
15	0.75	
20	1.0	0.2 up to 2 ml
25	1.25	
30	1.5	0.3 up to 3 ml
35	1.75	
40	2.0	0.4 up to 4 ml
45	2.25	
50	2.5	0.5 up to 5 ml

Application process:

- Prepare the rehydration fluid to ensure it's at body temperature and not cold
- Wrap the bird gently in soft toilet paper [being careful not to damage its feathers]

- Administer the prepared and warmed liquid with a pipette, cotton or artists small painting brush
- Do not overload the cotton tool with fluid
- Place a small drop [say, 0.02 ml] on to the side of the swift's beak/mouth, avoiding the nostrils at the top of the beak
- You may have to repeat this process a few times to allow the bird to recover for a few minutes between each drop
- Observe if the bird swallows before administering more drops
- Swallowing can be induced by gently stroking the throat

Note:

- Make sure the bird is warmed up before attempting rehydration
- Provide heat by using a heat pad or hot water bottle [temp 32-35°C] under the box so that it is underneath the bird's body
- Swifts have air sacs in addition to their lungs, these are connected to each other on both sides of the body. If fluids enter the trachea [windpipe] the fluids will travel throughout the bird's respiratory system including the air sacs and the bird will die. Therefore, it is very important to avoid flooding the bird's throat with fluids

For rehydration, commercially available substances are used which are diluted as per the manufacturer's instructions. Once the bird is drinking willingly, add two pinches of Poly Aid to the fluid and stir well. This is a special food for starving birds and will sustain them until they are ready for solid food

Rehydration substances:

- Nekton Electrolyte 35g: www.iangarlandfalconary.com
- Avian Electrolyte Powder 500g: www.osmonds.co.uk
- Avian Electro Plus 250ml: www.osmonds.co.uk
- Poly Aid – Emergency nutrition for sick birds 40g: www.birdcareco-shop.com