

Company: Holcim Granulats
Location: Petit-Mesnil (Aube), France

Objective To attract the sand Martin colony in a quiet part of the quarry in order to sustain its nesting habit.

Context A sand martin colony had a habit in colonizing the faces of the pit. As this species is a specific one, it was impossible for Holcim to extract the sand during the nesting period.

Solution A wood wall in which numerous holes were drilled was built. Sand of optimal calibration was compacted behind the wall.
Early in the season, the birds were attracted near the wall by sand martin songs broadcasted by a MP3 player equipped with loudspeakers.

Result At the beginning of spring sand martins were present in the area. They were attracted by the songs broadcasted by the MP3 player and began to dig in the sand behind the holes. At the beginning of summer, more of 40 nests were occupied, and the active faces of the pit were abandoned by the sand martins.

Partners CPIE : Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement du Pays de Soulaines (Aube).

