

Chaetura

SUMMER 2010

Driftwood Wildlife Association

Volume 15



Saving a School Chimney for Swifts

As we all know one of the most important Chimney Swift Conservation efforts we can undertake is to ensure chimneys not be torn down. This spring a large school chimney was saved from demolition in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan metro area. Cooperation of many partners, plus perseverance, and patience of all, resulted in the school chimney being allowed to continue to stand for use by the swifts!

On July 31, 2009 while taking photos of swifts and scouting the area for chimney swifts, a local resident found an estimated 250 Chimney Swifts using the Orono High School chimney. With the school janitorial staff she found a recently fallen nest as well as egg shells at bottom of the chimney.



Photo by Rebecca Field

She also learned that the chimney was slated to be torn down with HVAC renovation.

The Audubon at Home Coordinator wrote the Superintendent of Schools for the Orono District and explained how this chimney could provide a wonderful opportunity to teach/involve students of all grades about this species, and their conservation.

In early August a meeting was held with Orono school staff to discuss Chimney Swifts, the renovation plans, and seek possible scenarios of working together to meet each others objectives. This included the possibility of ways that Chimney Swifts could be included in the school's curriculum and building an artificial tower. Attendees included the District Superintendent, a School Board Member, the Assistant Superintendent for Business, an environmental education teacher, the local resident who originally learned of the chimney use by swifts, and the Coordinator for Minnesota's Audubon at Home Program.

In mid - September we met again and continued to discuss the possibilities of working together to help out the Chimney Swifts while at the same creating a meaningful environmental learning experience for the school's 2700 students and 300 staff members. An artificial tower was of definite interest to all and possible sites for Chimney Swift towers were identified.

By October the school had obtained a donation of funds to purchase materials for a Chimney Swift tower and a kiosk, and the commitment of an Eagle Scout to help

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with the building. By Thanksgiving, following discussions and investigating alternatives to demolishing the chimney with the renovation contractor, the school Superintendent felt they were well underway on saving the chimney. In February 2010 it was announced that the chimney would be saved for the swifts!

In May when the swifts return to Minnesota the Orono school chimney will be awaiting them, as well as an artificial tower. Saving the chimney was possible because of the combined efforts of many, but most of all it resulted from everyone keeping a fair and open mind to the needs of others.

Audubon Minnesota plans to continue working together with the school and is expanding efforts to work with the contractor who did the renovation as it does work at other schools/businesses etc. throughout the state. We hope they learned something about swifts and that there are alternatives to demolishing unneeded chimney when they start work elsewhere.

Ron Windingstad
Audubon Minnesota
Audubon at Home Coordinator

Not just a big bird box....

Last summer we were invited to submit an article about Chimney Swift towers and their use as conservation tools for this declining species. We were pleased with the quality, format and content of the publication. However, we were more than a little dismayed by the Editor's Note that followed our article.

It quoted a local sanctuary director: "... a swift tower is a low-yield investment" and "What you end up with is a 200 pound birdbox."

This comment was extremely unhelpful to the cause of Chimney Swift conservation, and we were surprised by it's appearance along side our article. However, it clearly demonstrated that we all need to do a better job of educating the public and even wildlife professionals about Chimney Swifts and the benefits of installing Chimney Swift towers.

Here are a few points to consider when deciding whether or not to build your own tower, or when approaching municipalities, parks, refuges and sanctuaries:

- It is true that a Chimney Swift tower is a relatively expensive project. But it pales beside the costs of setting aside acres of habitat as is required for the conservation of a single pair of most other declining avian species.
- Over the lifetime of a tower (20+ years), a single-brooded pair can produce as many as 100 offspring – more if double brooded.
- A Chimney Swift tower is not only a nesting site. Even a small tower provides the unique habitat required for hundreds of swifts to roost at night in safety. Roost sites are equally important to the future of this species.
- A Chimney Swift Tower can provide a point of interest in a public space and offer an opportunity to educate the public about this remarkable and beneficial species.
- Unlike a "birdbox" which is abandoned once the young have fledged, a Chimney Swift tower can be home to the parents, their offspring and their "helpers" for the entire time they are in their breeding territory.

Georgian and Paul Kyle



Report from Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary

*For a virtual hike through Chaetura Canyon
go to www.ChimneySwifts.org
and click on the "Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary" link*

Chaetura Canyon is an eight acre bird sanctuary owned by the Travis Audubon Society in Central Texas that is managed by Sanctuary Stewards Georgean and Paul Kyle. Research and educational efforts on behalf of Chimney Swifts have been conducted on this property since 1989. Sixteen structures constructed specifically for Chimney Swift nesting and roosting are available for swift habitation. Eight towers are constructed of wood; the other eight are constructed of concrete block.

Twelve towers were utilized by swifts in 2009, seven of the wooden and five of the concrete block. Two of the occupied concrete block towers contained only a nest. No eggs were produced. The remaining ten swift pairs produced a total of 58 eggs. Thirty-five of those eggs hatched but only 26 of the nestlings survived to fledge. We surmise that the continued extreme drought conditions accompanied by record high temperatures extending to September depressed swift productivity. Above normal temperatures were recorded for most days during the months of June and July. Beginning in mid-June and continuing until September 3, sixty-eight days reached an afternoon high of 100 degrees or higher.

The first swift arrived in 2009 on March 23; the last bird was sighted on October 15. Chimney Swifts were present at Chaetura Canyon for 207 days.

CHIMNEY SWIFT PRODUCTIVITY AT CHAETURA CANYON – 2009

	Tower	# Eggs Laid	# Eggs Hatch	# Young Fledged	
Wooden:	North Observation	5	4	4	
	South Observation	5	4	4	
	West Field	7	4	0	
	12' Demonstration	4	4	2	
	Garden (Marlene)	7	5	3	
	Workshop	9	4	4	
	Prism	7	3	3	
Concrete:	South Pool	6	4	3	
	Castle	4	0	0	
	Castle Companion	4	3	3	
	Castle Gate				Nest / no eggs
	Driveway				Nest / no eggs
	Totals	58	35	26	

Here and there 1.0



Photo by Bill Faber

Brainerd, MN

The tower has been built on our campus here in Brainerd, central Minnesota, in what we call the Lakes area. The institution is Central Lakes College, and the tower was put together by our Natural Resources students. We are excited to get our first swifts. It is one of many projects we have ongoing to make our campus as "bird friendly" as possible, which includes placement and monitoring of 22 bluebird houses, a purple martin house, and within weeks the erection of an osprey nesting platform...

*William E. "Bill" Faber, Ph.D., CWB
Natural Resources Instructor, Dept. of
Natural Resources
Central Lakes College*

Liberty, TX

There has been a confirmed sighting of Chimney Swifts using the tower at the third Trinity River Audubon Center tower site.

Pauline Schafer



Photo courtesy of Jim Eldridge

Kearney, MO

This is the new tower in Kearney Mo.! Today I saw at least a dozen or more Chimney Swifts flying around the sewer plant where Jake put the tower. Hope they are using the structure. They certainly based their flying pattern around it, though I didn't see any come or go from the tower.

*Jim Eldridge, City Administrator
City of Kearney, Missouri*

Holt, MO

Both wooden towers were occupied again. The West Tower pair laid two eggs, both hatched and they successfully fledged. Five eggs were laid in the North Tower. One rolled out, then, during a hail storm, one five day old baby fell out and died. The other three fledged.

Joyce Rosson



Photo by Kelly Applegate

Princeton, MN

At Home:

I have two Chimney Swift towers. One is a wooden tower with an internal dimension of 14.5" x 14.5" x 12'. It is elevated from the ground an additional 2.5 feet on 4 steel legs, with an 8.5" sun-collar. The overall height is 15 feet. The other is a 14' concrete tower with an internal dimension of 32" x 32" x 12'. It has a 17" sun-collar with a reduced opening of 14" x 16". Both are lined with textured T1-11 exterior siding, which is an ideal surface for swifts to attach nests and cling. The concrete tower is a new construction for this fall and is complete. The wooden tower was completed in fall of 2008, and in the spring of 2009 attracted a nesting pair. I played a vocalization CD of Chimney Swifts to lure them in to the yard. Within 5 minutes of playing the CD, I had a group of 5 swifts parading around the yard V-ing, and later that day 2 swifts plunged down into the shaft and remained there for about a half an hour. The next week was exciting as they were busy building their nest. The pair had a successful nest of three eggs,

Here and there 1.1

two hatched and fledged. (One broken egg was discovered in post-nesting inspection of waste collected at tower bottom.) The family of four continued to roost in the tower nightly through August 26th.

(Continued below)



Photo by Kelly Applegate

Onamia, MN

At Work:

Here at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources we have 4 wooden towers like the one described above that were erected in fall of 2008. None of the towers were used by swifts this season. In fact, we are just completing a two year avian inventory, and a Chimney Swift has only been recorded once in 2008, seen flying at high altitudes feeding with some Purple Martins. These towers are managed by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources. Attached is a picture of one of the towers (tan siding).

*Kelly Applegate, Wildlife Biologist
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Dept. of
Natural Resources/ Environment*

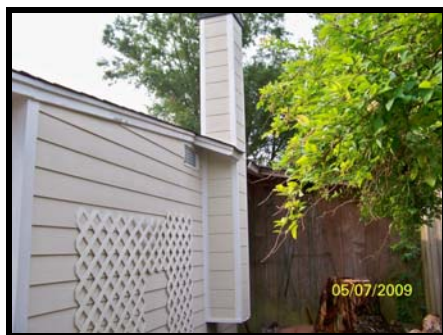


Photo by John Atkins

Hattiesburg, MS

After seeing the tower at Holly Springs MS I built and installed one on our garden shed. It looks like it is a chimney used for heating. It was successful in that it contained an empty nest. We were out of town so didn't witness fledging. Hope for more birds this year.

Ole John Atkins

Beaumont, TX

I finally have boarders! Since I built the tower (before Hurricane Rita) I have tried many ideas to attract the Chimney Swift. Monday evening just before 8 pm, two Swifts dove into the tower. I went inside to see how they looked on a TV monitor and while checking them out, one flew out and did not return. In the morning the overnigher flew out but returned shortly with another Swift. They stayed a minute or two and flew out for the day. Tuesday night, two entered just before 8 pm and both stayed all night. I believe I am more excited than the Swift could possibly be!

John David Weikel



Photo by Gary Bergholtz

Choctawhatchee Bay, FL

The tower is 48x48 inches inside and 16 ft. tall. The photo is taken facing almost due west. It was finished early last summer--too late for last year of course.

The tower is made with 2 x 6's and fully insulated; the inside is lined with T1-11. We added the 8 new pilings necessary to support the roof independently from the tower. The roof is about 32'x32' so it a pretty large structure. We refer to it as The Birdhouse and the builder who helped me design and build it is now known in the area as THE Birdhouse Contractor!

Gary Bergholtz



Here and there 1.2



Photo by Mike Wisniowiecki

The Woodlands, TX

We wanted to let you know that my son Nicholas and his Boy Scout Troop 89 have completed construction of a cinder block Chimney Swift tower as part of his Eagle Scout project requirements. This tower was built at The Woodlands Parks & Recreation offices.

Mike Wisniowiecki
Nicholas Wisniowiecki, Eagle Scout candidate

Elizabeth, IL

I wanted to report that I now have swifts using the second false chimney. It took them three seasons to finally decide. As I wrote earlier, the false chimney on my house was being used in '01 immediately even though the house was not finished yet. Always one of my favorite birds, I delight in watching them. I have a gang this year and count perhaps 12-15 every day. Sure miss them when the leave in September.

Grace Storch



Photo by Kelly Applegate

Austin, TX

In March of 2009, members of the Travis Audubon Society built a Kiosk Chimney Swift Tower in memory of former Board of Directors member Gray Jolink. The parts of the tower were fabricated by students in the annual spring Chimney Swift Tower Workshop at the Travis Audubon's Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary. The tower is located in City of Austin's Mayfield Park.

Georgian and Paul Kyle
Travis Audubon Sanctuary Stewards

Spicewood, TX

Chris Harte has commissioned eight Chimney Swift towers over the past few years to help him meet the requirements to convert his agricultural exemption to a wildlife exemption. The towers have been an integral part of the plan to provide wildlife habitat on the former cattle ranch. In 2009 all of the towers were occupied by nesting swifts. Chris added two additional towers this year, and interest is rising with landowners in the area to follow his example.

Georgian and Paul Kyle

Moss Point, MS

We had a very interesting year with the swifts to say the least. By May 23rd, 5 eggs had been laid. Five hatched but all had expired by June 18. On June 26, a new egg was in the nest. A total of four new eggs were laid. All hatched and by August 10, the juveniles were practice flapping. The juveniles move directly into the path of rain coming into the sun collar, they seem to love to practice flap their wings with the rain hitting them. All four fledged.

Mozart Dedeaux
Education Coordinator
Pascagoula River Audubon Center

Here and there 1.3

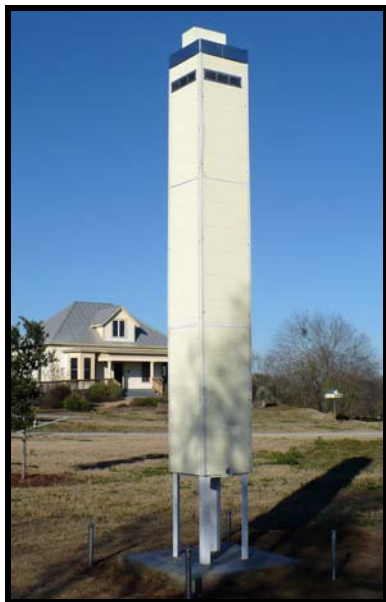


Photo by Georgina Schwartz

San Antonio, TX

I am happy to report that the Chimney Swift Tower Eagle Scout project was completed this weekend. I appreciate all the support and cooperation of everyone who contributed to this effort.

*Nicholas Scalerio
Troop 2407*



Photo courtesy of Marc Opperman

Austin, TX

Just thought I'd share a photo of the completed Chimney Swift tower on Reicher Ranch on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Thanks for everyone's help and Daniel for coordinating us volunteers.

Marc Opperman



Photo by Louise Briggeman

Rolla, MO

I am writing to inform you of the swift tower I built early in 2008. I got it up and ready before the 2009 year and am happy to report that I got a pair of swifts to raise 5-6 young last year.

Louis Briggeman



Chimney Swifts over Chaetura Canyon by Paul Kyle

“A Swift Night Out!”

A SWIFT NIGHT OUT is a continent-wide effort to raise awareness about and encourage interest in Chimney Swifts and Vaux's Swifts. The project has become a favorite late summer event for professional and amateur birdwatchers alike.

As summer draws to a close and the swifts have finished raising their young, these fascinating aerial acrobats begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. Some roosts may consist of an extended family group of a half a dozen birds or so, but the larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts! We encourage you to involve your local Audubon chapters, bird clubs, scout groups and neighbors in this exhilarating spectacle.

Here is how it works: Keep your eyes to the skies at dusk in late July and watch for areas where swifts are feeding. Look for a tall shaft, chimney or similar structure to locate where Chimney Swifts (central to east coast) or Vaux's Swift (Pacific coast) go to roost in your area.

This year, on one night over the weekend of **August 6, 7, 8, and / or September 10, 11, 12**, observe the roost starting about 30 minutes before dusk and estimate the number of swifts that enter. When you have your number, email us at:

DWA@austin.rr.com

Are You a Member of the Driftwood Wildlife Association?

If not, please join our Chimney Swift Conservation efforts!

Dues and contributions help:

- ***maintain the ChimneySwifts.org website***
- ***publish the newsletter, Chaetura***
- ***produce and distribute educational information***

If you are a Member, please renew ASAP

Visit the web site and click on “Membership” for information and categories of support...

SWALLOWS - MARTINS - SWIFTS WORLDWIDE

This website encourages communication among professional and amateur alike in the study of all species of swallows, martins and swifts worldwide. Questions and discussions concerning the amount of calcium in swift diets and the calcium required for the formation of eggs has been recurring over the years. The following posts based on the European swift Apus apus may help shed light on the uniqueness of the swift family.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Swallows-Martins-Swifts-Worldwide/>

**A link to Swallows-Martins-Swifts-Worldwide can be found on our web site at
www.ChimneySwifts.org**

ATTRACTING SWIFTS

OK, another new year, being I didn't get any visitor's last year any suggestions for this year?

Stephen Van Gee, Austin, TX

I am trying to get information on how to attract Chimney Swifts. We have two very nice towers in two wildlife habitats, and neither one have ever had any inhabitants. They are six or seven years old, and no signs of ever being occupied. Our Master Naturalists group in the Highland Lakes has been restoring the habitat this past year. The tower is in a very natural hill country setting, and very well built. The habitat is about four acres beside the Highland Lakes Elementary in Granite Shoals. Thanks for any suggestions you may have.

Penny Nichols, Kingsland, TX

I teach wildlife and natural resources here in central MN and our NR students have just completed construction of a brand new Chimney Swift tower. My question concerns how to attract the swifts. I was told by a local bird authority and researcher that the best way is to play a CD with chimney swift songs - is that correct, and if so, how do I get a CD or tape to play at our tower next spring when our flying cigar friends return for the season?

Dr. Bill Faber
Natural Resources Instructor, Dept. of Natural Resources
Central Lakes College
Brainerd, MN

A Swift Response to Tower Occupancy

by Kelly Applegate, Wildlife Biologist for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians in Central Minnesota

Attracting Chimney Swifts to an awaiting tower can be a test of patience, with the swifts sometimes overlooking the structure for a couple of years. There is, however, a way to seal the deal and get tenants in short order. In the Purple Martin world, audio CDs of boisterous martins calls will bring in house-hunting martins.....the same idea works well with swifts.

This idea was first tried here in Minnesota by a good friend of mine and dedicated swift landlord, Jim Morrison. Jim has a rather remote location with the nearest known nesting swifts about 10 miles away. Jim shared the idea with me and I was amazed at the success. Having just completed a new tower myself, I couldn't wait to try it out. Within five minutes of playing the recording, I had five swifts rattling through the yard chirping along with the CD, diving at the speaker!

I placed the speaker about 10 feet away from my newly placed tower. After investigating the sound for about 15 minutes, a swift discovered the tower and after a few passes, plunged inside. It was followed by another and they remained inside for a half an hour, chirping excitedly. The next scene is something that will be etched in my mind forever. Both swifts came out of the top at full speed and before they could reach the edge of the yard, were locked into the classic "V" position chirping in joy.....they found their new home! The next week was incredible to watch them build the nest, coming and going sun-up to sun-down with muffled chirping sounds coming from the tower.

My pair of swifts raised two healthy young the first year. The family of four continued to use the tower as a mini-roost, appearing every night like clockwork. The fun part was watching the young ones improve on their ability to enter the tower as each night passed. The first week after fledging, the young would sometimes land on the sun-collar and clumsily, yet comically fall into the tower. By the time they migrated south, they were masters in the fine art of "tower entry" just like their parents. My swift family used the tower from May 15th till August 28th, that's 3 1/2 months.

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These new techniques for attracting swifts are still rather experimental, and finding recordings is not easy. In Minnesota, Audubon Minnesota Chimney Swift Conservation Program Director Ron Windingstad and myself are working on a special project to create an audio CD with Cornell University for use here in Minnesota.

If you are able to acquire a recording somewhere and would like to experiment, here are some pointers:

A recording is best played from a loud source such as a stereo system with a powerhorn as a speaker. Powerhorns are available from your local radio equipment dealer, or online. The cheapest powerhorn will work fine. Your powerhorn should be placed near the tower so that any swifts investigating the sound will be drawn to fly over the tower top. It may take several luring sessions with the recording to entice the swifts to occupy the tower. After swifts are seen spending the night, there is no longer a need to play the recording.

We hope this simple attraction technique results in more occupied towers and a greater incentive to build more towers. A big thanks goes out to Jim Morrison for the brilliant idea. Good luck attracting Chimney Swifts!



Photo by Kelly Applegate

And if they still don't come...

Not every tower will be occupied the first year. Sometimes this is just “bad luck”, while other times it can be for an obvious reason. To enhance the chance of occupancy, pay attention to these details:

- Make certain there is a solid bottom on the tower with drain holes. Do NOT use screen or wire mesh.
- Use Tanglefoot pest barrier on the metal legs of free-standing towers to deter ants.
- Always use a slick material to cover the outside of the tower, and avoid using 3-dimensional decorations.
- If wood is used to cover the outside of the tower, install a slick (metal) 24” minimum predator guard around the top.
- Do not place towers in close proximity to nesting birds of prey or caged raptors in zoos or nature parks.

Finally, have patience! Once the tower construction is complete leave it for the swifts. Monitor the tower only from a distance. Once the swifts have migrated in the fall, the tower can be investigated to determine nesting success or failure.



Illustrations by Georgean Z. Kyle

Canadian Update

Dr. Joe Nocera, a research scientist from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has had three students doing a study on our towers over the past summer, to try to determine what attracts Swifts to nest or roost sites. I'm happy to report that all nine towers that we and the Peterborough Field Naturalists built last fall have had swifts roosting in them late this summer. Hopefully, when they return, some will nest in our towers. We've also discovered nest and roost sites in churches, commercial buildings and private residences within various communities in our area and have been talking with the owners, to promote awareness and preserve existing habitat.

We have been taking our presentation to Service Clubs and Community Groups who have, or are in the process of building towers in their communities. Now we want to try to get some of the old chimneys on city and commercial buildings uncapped, and possibly some new additions on rooftops as well.

Judy Kennedy & Robbie Preston,
Kawartha Field Naturalists.
Ontario, Canada

The Bert Miller Nature Club – Shagbark Nature Park has recently built a tower. The Club is located in the town of Fort Erie in Southern Ontario, Canada. They plan on erecting an interpretive sign to explain the tower and the birds, and why it is an important species to conserve.

Scott Hughes
BERT MILLER NATURE CLUB - SHAGBARK NATURE PARK

Karen Potter is working full time on species at risk for Environment Canada (federal government, Dept. of Environment), and Chimney Swifts are occupying quite a bit of her time. There are now programs to monitor and help swifts in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick, and we in Nova Scotia are well behind those other provinces. As you probably know, some towers have been built in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, but I think there hasn't been any occupancy yet, which suggests perhaps some modifications need to be made for the northern part of the swifts' range? I think I asked you once about that, whether you have any information on how to warm up the insides of towers for roosting and/or nesting?

Jim Wolford
Wolfville, Nova Scotia

It is not unusual for a new nesting tower to remain unoccupied for a few years until the swifts discover the structure.

Although our problems are on the other end of the spectrum (over-heating), we have discussed concerns about keeping the towers warmer in communications with other conservationists. Less ventilation in the bottom of the tower seems an obvious first step. Heat gain could also be achieved by using darker colors on the outside of the tower. However, there would need to be some experimentation to insure that there is not too much gain. Inside temperatures would need to remain no higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Additional insulation could also help retain heat as the temperatures cool after sunset.

It may be that wooden towers may not be the best choice in colder climates. Masonry will hold heat longer because of the increased thermal mass and probably create a more constant inside temperature. We (and others) have had some good results lining the inside of masonry towers with the T1-11 wooden siding. This eliminates the problems we have experienced with nests detaching from the wall of concrete block structures. It would be best if the lining can be designed in such a way that it can be replaced as the wood deteriorates over a decade or so. Some individuals have used sleeves that slip into the top of smaller towers. Larger-diameter towers that can be entered can have the T1-11 attached with masonry screws for ease of replacement.

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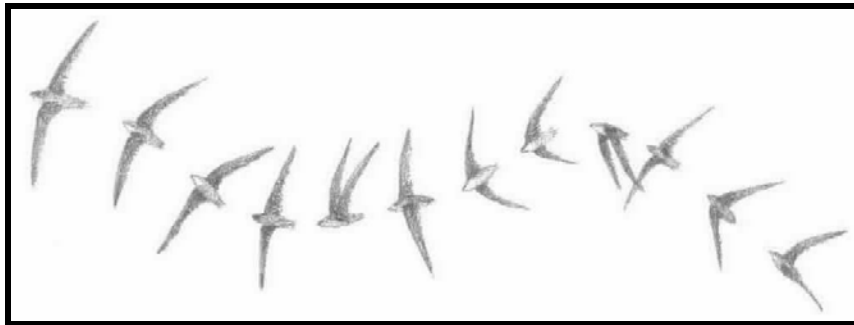
Nature NB conservation efforts

Nature NB - Species at Risk is a provincial non profit organization located in New-Brunswick, Canada. Our focuses are mostly on the recovery of species at risk and their habitats. We have been working on behalf of species at risk for the past 21 years and are especially recognized for the positive effect we have had on the protection of the endangered Piping Plover. We are also working to protect and educate the public about various species of plants and have recently added to our program the newly listed species at risk, the Chimney Swift.

In Canada, the Chimney Swift was designated as threatened in April 2007. As of this date, the biologist/director of Nature NB decided to include the specie to our mandate since Chimney Swifts have been seen in our region on several occasion.

Thanks to our partners, a pilot project was put in place to construct towers (inspired by the Driftwood Wildlife Association Project) to facilitate nesting of this special bird and to evaluate the viability of these kinds of structures in our region. Our efforts are aimed towards stewardship and the participation of stewards to provide space for the towers on their property. As of 2009, five more towers were put in place in our region. This project is to be staggered over a few years. Our main goals are to involve naturalist in the protection of a species at risk, in the making of towers, as well as inspiring changes in some chimney sweeping company practices. Besides, an ongoing research is currently in place to determine whether the recommended insulation is sufficient for our cold climate.

Thanks again to our partners, the NB Wildlife Trust Fund, the Habitat Stewardship Program and all of our stewards that adopted a tower, for their help toward the protection of the Chimney Swift.



SWEEPS CORNER

We were pretty excited to have a full nest of Chimney Swifts fledge this year at our swift tower at the National Chimney Sweep Guild and Chimney Safety Institute of America headquarters!

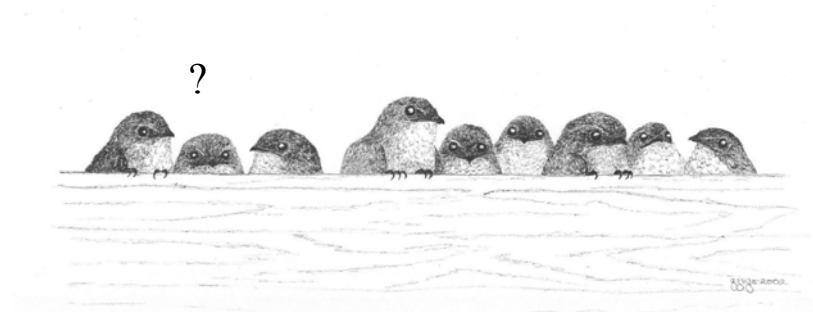
The building and tower are located in an industrial park/warehouse area at the west end of the Indianapolis Indiana airport so there's not much other swift habitat available in the area. We consider every fledgling a seed that's planted to help green an otherwise not terribly nature friendly area, and they seem happy to have it all to themselves, not bothered in the least by the occasional 747 thundering overhead.

As a bonus this year we had over 400 people from around the country tour the facility as part of the NCSG convention that was held in Indianapolis this February, so we were able to spread the word a bit more than usual as they asked about that "unusual structure" on our grounds.

Again Paul and Georgean, thanks for all your help and encouragement over the years, and we look forward to helping in any small way we can in the future.

Paul Hempel
Brushes and Brooms

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS...



We have a great chimney here at Brickyard Condos. It's always a beautiful experience to see swifts literally pour into the chimney at dusk. From what I've read, they are airborne most of the day until they find a chimney or something similar for the night.

Can you tell me what time of morning they leave the chimney? I'd like to see that happening. We never think much about them until they appear in the evenings.

Bert Lunan

Chimney Swifts usually begin exiting a chimney at sunrise. Instead of the spectacular circling that you experience in the evening, the morning emergence is quite subtle. The birds pop out individually, glide downward briefly, then fly out over treetop level. In rain, very cold weather or extremely hot weather conditions, swifts may remain in the chimney until later in the day.

We have had Chimney Swifts in our chimney for years, and I thought we were supposed to leave the chimney alone. I just read that we should have our chimney cleaned out once a year, once the birds are gone. Our birds are gone now (South Carolina). I am concerned if we had our chimney cleaned out, would they come back next year?

Ken

Cleaning the chimney will not deter the swifts. In fact, it will make the chimney safer for them and for you. Creosote and soot that build up on the walls make it difficult for their nest to be securely attached to the wall, and an entire nest with young can fall to the bottom of the chimney. The best time to have the chimney cleaned is in March, before the swifts return in migration from South America.

Do these birds REALLY fly from South Carolina to Peru?

Yes. In fact they fly from as far north as Canada to South America. A Chimney Swift that survives the round trip migration will return to the same chimney each year to raise young.

Do they stop at night?

Yes. Chimney Swifts do not fly at night unless frightened from their roost.

Do chimney sweeps routinely receive instruction on how to deal with these animals?

(Continued on page 14)

Chimney Swifts are protected by federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and most states mirror this law. It is a violation of this law to disturb, displace or destroy the birds, their nests or their young while the swifts are in residence. Fines are quite high and apply to each individual bird -- not just the site of the nest. It is the legal responsibility of any company that comes in contact with Chimney Swifts (or any other migratory bird) to know the applicable laws and abide by them. The National Chimney Sweeping Guild is a strong proponent of Chimney Swift conservation, and most reputable chimney cleaning companies are members of the Guild. It is important that homeowners and businesses who hire a professional chimney cleaning company make certain that anyone they hire is certified and will abide by the laws.

Last evening my wife and I enjoyed our annual "pilgrimage" to the huge Chimney Swift roost in Galena, OH (central Ohio), where several *thousand* birds are using the large brick chimney (maybe 3'x5' and 40' tall) of an old church. We hear this is one of the largest late summer roosts in the state. It is difficult not to "wax poetic" when trying to describe this spectacular experience . . . watching in awe beneath a sky filled with happy twittering as, over 30 minutes time, the swirling cloud of birds assembles, condenses, then finally drops a few at a time into their chimney for the night. We take our lawn chairs, pack a picnic supper, and sit there in the gravel parking lot watching as if spectators at a July 4th fireworks display. Only this treasure of nature is far better. The impression it leaves is as if one has witnessed something rare and priceless, irreplaceable if lost (almost like gazing upon a giant sequoia tree) - a ritual among the birds that developed over time and has been going on each September for so many generations.

Anyway, the experience leaves one dying to know *just what goes on down inside the chimney* with a roost colony of that size!! Upon entering how do they maneuver and find their "spot" down in the darkness of the chimney? Is there a pattern to their positioning . . . do the first ones in go clear to the bottom to leave room for those that follow? How often do entering birds collide with those already in, knocking them from their perch? Is there a "pecking order" for who gets the best spots? How densely do they pack together inside, and do members of a family group try to stay together? Amidst all that chittering in the cloud of birds above the chimney, is there communication going on signaling when to begin dropping down inside, and in what sequence? Why does the cloud of birds rotate clockwise for awhile, then reverse direction?

Have researchers ever placed one-way glass in a large roost chimney like this and used night vision cameras to study what is happening in there?? We thought you might know of any such studies or literature on that aspect of Chimney Swift behavior . . . if so, would you please point us in that direction?

Larry and Elaine Smith
Hilliard, OH

Our book "Chimney Swifts: America's Mysterious Birds above the Fireplace" answers all of these questions and many more! It is available from the www.ChimneySwifts.org web site under the "Books About Chimney Swifts" link.

I've been looking at your website with a great deal of interest. My wife and I own a condo in an old, mid-western, brick and mortar school building, which has been converted into 12 apartments. The building has an old smokestack, typical for a building built in the 1920's. The stack has not been in use for at least 20 years.

It is wonderful to watch the swifts dart in and out of the stack at dusk, but we and others who live in the old school have worries about what affect the swifts may have on the building:

1) Do the feces that fall to the bottom of the stack in the basement pose a potential health problem to us? They accumulate at the bottom in the basement.

While contained in the bottom of the incinerator, there should be no health problems. However, if you or other tenants have concerns, you could certainly arrange to have the contents removed while the swifts are not in residence. The first cleaning would likely yield a large quantity of guano, but in subsequent years the build up would be minimal. Of course, safety precautions would need to be taken (masks, gloves, etc) if the site is cleaned.

(Continued on page 15)

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2) Does the accumulation of nests, or the roosting of the swifts, pose a potential problem with causing the mortar to decay more quickly?

The accumulation of nests will be minimal as there will be only one active nest per season (hard to believe, we know). We can think of no reason the use of the stack by swifts would have any effect on the structural integrity.

3) We don't really want to cause harm to the swifts, but neither do we want to expose ourselves to unintended consequences. There has been talk of capping the stack, or even dismantling it.

In short, there are no health or structural reasons related to Chimney Swifts that would indicate capping or dismantling the structure. The smokestack has been in place for nearly 100 years -- much of that time the building was used by children. If there had been any health problems, they certainly would have come to light by now.

Is there a past issue of your newsletter that may address our concerns? If not, could you kindly offer us information and advice.

In the 2008 issue of our newsletter, the cover story is about a school chimney in Houston, Texas that was saved from demolition and has become a premier nature-education asset for the community. There is a school chimney in Portland, Oregon that is the center of an annual Vaux's Swift Festival where families bring their children and a picnic supper to watch the swifts go to roost.

Thank you for your interest in Chimney Swifts. It sounds like you have a precious conservation resource. Smokestacks such as the one you describe are disappearing at an alarming rate all over North America. This is not because the roosting swifts pose any hazard. In fact, the swifts are a major consumer of small flying insect "pests" such as mosquitoes, gnats, flies and even termites.

Thank you so much for your response. Your answers and encouragement will aide us in deciding what we may want to do about the issue.

I have done a little bit more investigation in the community where our condo is situated, mainly to go visit a similar old school house that has been converted into a city parks and recreation facility. I went there last fall and inquired of the staff as to whether or not they had swifts residing in their unused stack. I was assured that they did not have the feathered visitors and that their stack had been capped.

Three days ago I went back at dusk. I was more than just a little bit surprised to discover almost twice as many swifts darting around the entrance to their stack. Quite obviously it had not been capped, and obviously the city officials were not concerned about any possible health issues of any gathering guano.

Barry Thompson

I work for Central Arkansas Water which is the water utility for Central Arkansas. We have some old 36" concrete pipes used in the 1930's to construct one of our water lines. The utility is looking to either take these to the dump or reuse them in some way. I wanted to see if these pipes might somehow be used as Chimney Swift towers. I am not exactly sure how long they are, but they could be stacked or put on some kind of base. I have had 2 differing opinions about this from ornithologists, so I thought I would get your opinion as well. Please let me know what you think of this idea.

Chimney Swifts constantly use old concrete cisterns and other similar structures for roosting and nesting. A good example is shown in the attached photos. This particular structure measures 12' in diameter, and stands 16' tall. The top is closed except for a 24" opening in the center of the top

There is no reason why the 36" concrete pipes would not work well as Chimney Swift towers. The resulting structure would be large enough in diameter to accommodate a fair-sized roost. We would suggest pouring a slab for the stacked pipe to sit on with some type of drainage so that it would not fill with water. A minimum height of 12' is suggested with the opening in the top reduced to 16".

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Photo by Georgean and Paul Kyle

This is the Old Concrete Cistern Chimney Swift Roost in Jonestown, Texas. It was historically used to supply water for a development on the north side of Lake Travis. It is approximately 16' tall and 8' in diameter. The top is covered with a 24' round opening in the center.

The Old Concrete Cistern is monitored annually by members of the Travis Audubon Society for "A Swift Night Out" (see page 8). Counts have been as high as 2500 Chimney Swifts.



Photo by Georgean and Paul Kyle

Thank you so much for responding and responding so quickly! I just hate to see those pipes hauled off to the landfill. I think this is worth a try and I appreciate the information. The "nay-sayer" said that Chimney Swift towers have specific dimensions and the pipes wouldn't have anything for the birds to attach their nests too. These pipes are rough on the inside. They were cast in the '30s and were not coated to make them smooth. My only concern would be snakes or insects. Maybe we could put some flashing up to keep the varmints out.

Stephanie Hymel
Central Arkansas Water
Little Rock, AR

CHIMNEY TIME-SHARING REPORTS

I knew nothing of Chimney Swifts before searching on the internet for what was in my chimney. I was thinking I had to do something drastic to rid my chimney of these "pests". Instead I found your website and learned of the conservation effort to protect them. You probably saved some lives. Thanks for creating such a helpful website.

S. Mazer

For several years now we have had birds nesting in our bedroom chimney and we never knew what birds were there until one evening last year when one came down the chimney and flew into our bedroom. After consulting our bird books, I realized that they were Chimney Swifts and we were looking forward to them returning this year and, of course, they have done just that. They can be rather noisy at night when we are trying to sleep!!!!

They have been in our chimney now for a couple of weeks and during the last couple of nights we have watched them entering the chimney at dusk.

Several years ago I nearly had that chimney capped and now we are so glad that we did not. We are amazed to learn that they come all the way from the Amazon Basin or Peru.

Julia and John Taylor
Burke, Virginia

We have had Chimney Swifts nesting in our brick fireplace for the last 6 years. We anxiously await their return every April. I seldom see them on the wing, but can definitely hear the babies being fed this past week. It had been very windy in our part of Texas, and the gusts of wind blowing down the chimney can really get them chirping. They are very sweet birds, and we wish more people in our area would leave their chimneys uncapped for them. Just enjoying your web site and thought you might like to know that their are Chimney Swift lovers in Arlington, Texas

Leslie Annen

My interest began a year ago. We have a fireplace in our den and last year we had a nest in the chimney along with it the flutter of wings and peeping of baby birds. My wife did a quick search and discovered they were indeed Chimney Swifts, they are protected. We still did not bother to do any more than let the birds finish what they had started.

Before the birds headed out on their migration, we were able identify them as Chimney Swifts. We procrastinated all winter about getting on the roof to put a heavy wire screen over the chimney opening.

Suddenly they were back. I got out a ladder, made a temporary cover and put it over the opening. I did see a Swift flying around as well.

To make a long story endless, I got back on the Internet and did a much more detailed search for information on the birds. I came across your web site. Upon learning of their nesting site problems created by the most imperfect creatures on the planet, I got the ladder out and removed the cover I had put on the night before. I had used a light and was sure there were no birds in the chimney when I had covered it. They were back in the chimney the same evening and are still in there, nest building, I guess.

We will happily endure the racket, knowing we have made an impact on our local Chimney Swifts. Please feel free to use this email to help other folks make the right decision. I will build a couple of towers to add additional lodging.

Doug Twinam

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

I just wanted you to know that after reading your site just now, I have decided to not install a chimney cap and screen that we planned to do this fall. We have Chimney Swifts nesting for the first time at our house and the chirping of the young has been amazing but annoying also. We had by coincidence a chimney sweep out to the house to repair the chimney but he suggested we postpone all work until the young ones leave. He said they were protected and he suggested we look at your website. Thankfully, I now realize that I can help make a little bit of difference in protecting these birds.

Larry Burgin

Your web site was a great help. I thought I had bats flying into my chimney. We have 3 swifts living in the chimney now with a small twig nest built at the very bottom of the chimney, just above the flue damper. I was ready to smoke them out and cage up the chimney until I read the swift information. This will allow the birds to live there during the spring, summer and part of fall and I can use the chimney in the winter. I was surprised to see 3 going in the chimney when the data shows typically 2 per chimney. Also, the cross sectional area of the nest is probably 1/1000 of the chimney area, therefore I can see why there would never be a problem with flow restriction.

We live in South Park, Pennsylvania. When our 3 take flight in the day, they join up with two others so there is another set of swifts nesting somewhere in this same vicinity.

Rick Beaver

We are very glad you found our web site helpful. Thanks for reading before acting! Although there will be only one active nest per structure, it is not unusual for the parents to be accompanied by an additional bird or two. These are typically offspring from the previous year that were unable to find a suitable nesting site of their own. They are called "helpers" because they often help feed the new babies of this season. Thanks again for your interest and concern.

OBSERVATIONS - Vaux's Swifts

Monday, September 21, 2009: I live in Malibu Lake, California. A couple of nights ago at dusk at least 500 Swifts flew down my chimney and into my house. It was quite amazing and a little frightening. I succeeded in letting most of them out of my house unharmed by opening my sliding glass doors and turning the inside lights out. My neighbor and I were up for hours finding at least 50 birds that had gone behind my refrigerator, into closets and I even found one in a tall skinny vase, luckily very much alive.

Anyway I am wondering how I could make my chimney a safe place for these birds to come to. I hardly ever use my fireplace and I would be happy to never use it again if I could help these amazing birds. Any help or information you could give me on what to do to my chimney to make it safe for them would be much appreciated.

Monique Quigley

In your part of the country the birds that paid you a visit are Vaux's Swifts -- the smaller Pacific-coast relatives of Chimney Swifts. Except for where they are found they are difficult to tell apart. Most conservation information for Chimney Swifts applies to Vaux's Swifts as well.

We are very pleased that you took the event so well and are concerned for the birds. It is quite likely that a traditional roost near your home was recently closed off. The swifts simply were looking for an alternative safe roosting site for the night.

If you make certain your damper is closed, it will prevent the swifts from entering the house. In most cases they will be perfectly happy spending the night in the chimney. If you go to the "Is There Chattering in Your Chimney?" link on our web site, there are some suggestions for coexisting with swifts and for dealing with problems that may arise. Swifts are in North America only during the warmer months of the year, therefore, it is possible to use your fireplace during the winter and have it available for the swifts during the breeding season with little conflict.

(Continued on page 19)



(Continued from page 18)

This tower is located at a local elementary school and the kids are excited about the possibility of birds nesting this spring. The tower (and camera) were all funded by a grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. So far the tower has provided the opportunity to share information about the Vaux's Swift to not only the school where the tower is, but also to the surrounding community through a presentation I gave at a local Audubon meeting last summer. I will keep in touch and let you know if we get any visitors this spring.

Tracey Scalici
Olympia, WA

OBSERVATIONS - Chimney Swifts

I have been recuperating from back surgery (on 4/14/09), nauseated from antibiotics, watching it rain and hail, and generally feeling sorry for myself. So, late yesterday (around 7:15 PM), I went for a short, slow walk between storms, and was rewarded with a silent but thrilling walk with about a dozen Chimney Swifts down my street. I was enchanted to walk along side the quiet birds as they circled around, and flew at ankle height off the street, probably catching gnats or mosquitoes that were emerging after the rain.

Many of the birds flew close enough to me that I could feel the breeze from their wings; their acrobatic movements were beautiful to watch, especially as they cruised by at shoulder height, not two feet from me. Some of them seemed to watch me as they passed by, but they did not stop their low, swooping flights. All of this occurred in absolute silence, with none of the typical "chatter" that I am used to hearing. The "dance" ended after about four minutes, and I was alone on my walk. Thanks to these beautiful birds, my evening walk lifted my spirits, and left me in a better mood.

Miranne Merritt-Pellerin
Pearland, TX

Today (Tuesday 9/29) I had two Chimney Swifts overhead in the center of town. I was surprised by the late date. Andrews is out on the ragged edge of the breeding range. We have a small breeding population during the summer of 2 to 3 pairs. Usually the Swifts are gone by the end of August-beginning of September, so maybe the two today are migrants?

Erik Breden
Andrews, TX

We are counting swifts tonight (Sept. 29, 2009) at the Pershing Middle School's boiler stack, Whole Foods air shaft, and Russ Pitman Park.

Last week was interesting. Whole Foods had 31 swifts. Pershing only had 12 swifts. Russ Pitman's man-made tower had 101! I counted 162 at St Paul's on Thursday, 9/24. It will be interesting to see the effects of the cold front on our count tonight.

Pam Smolen
Houston, TX

I reported 24 swifts in tower #3 on Aug. 9. 51 swifts entered the same tower on Sept. 13. Tonight, Oct. 12, 236 arrived !!!

M E Lewis
Homer, LA

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

As of October 18, there are still swifts roosting in our chimney in Washington DC. Tonight, the first clear night, we saw about a dozen swifts flying overhead around 6:15 p.m. Two or three went into our chimney around 6:20 p.m. The rest disappeared. We waited till around 7 p.m. and did not see any more go into the chimney. I'm assuming that the large flock (there were 100 plus birds that went into the chimney last week) has moved south and we are seeing a few stragglers.

Kyoko Mori
Washington, DC

I am writing you from Hutchinson Kansas. I own an old church in this city that has a chimney used by Chimney Swifts. I have had in past years up to two hundred or more birds dive into that chimney just after dusk at this time of year. Two nights ago I counted about one hundred birds that dove into the structure around 7:00 p.m. Last night I counted fewer and tonight (October 19) my wife and I saw maybe 30.

Ron Pauls
Hutchinson, KS

As I was heading west on 152 Hwy out of Liberty today (October 15), I spotted at least a dozen Chimney Swifts flying over the shopping area just west of the intersection with 291 Hwy in Liberty. It was a bit of a surprise, since I had thought most of them had already left the area. There were a few at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary this morning, too. It's amazing they are still finding food in this weather.

Susan Seyboth
Kansas City, MO

This morning (October 16), while walking my dog in Line Creek Park in southern Platte Co, I spotted three Chimney Swifts. I wanted to let those who keep track of these birds know that they are still present in this area.

Susan Seyboth
Kansas City, MO

There are thousands of Chimney Swifts still present on the main campus of Hannibal High School and Hannibal Middle School . It is October 25, am wondering when they'll all move on!?

Patrick Harrison
St. Joseph, MO

At 6 o'clock this evening (October 25, 2009) I stepped out into our front yard here in Saint Joseph and watched some 200 American Robins flying over. Also six Chimney Swifts were still hawking insects.

Larry Lade
Saint Joseph, MO

This is amazing!! The swifts are usually gone from St. Joseph by the 15th of October. The same is true for here in Holt. They are still in Kearney too.

Joyce Rosson
Holt, MO

(Continued on page 21)



Photo by Rebecca Field

(Continued from page 20)

Attached is a photo of a swift whose mouth I assume is full of insects as it is coming into a chimney with young. But you mentioned that the saliva glands also swell up so am not sure which may be the case here. What are your thoughts?

Ron Windingstad
Cottage Grove, MN

This swift definitely has a mouth full of insects to feed the young!



Photo by Skip Lyman

Germantown, OH

I work at Germantown Metropark in Germantown, OH. I don't know if you are registering nesting sights, but we do have a spot that Chimney Swifts have been returning to here at our Nature Center. There is a chimney alcove that is open at the top right near our front door that some Chimney Swifts have been using to successfully raise young. The nest is accessible (attached to our wall behind a door). Here is a picture. It is an adult on the nest (we think that they might be sitting on the youngsters). I know that there were at least 3 fledglings.

Lisa McGurk
Americorps Service Member
Germantown MetroPark Nature Center

Sugarland, TX

Wow!!!! We stopped counting at a conservative 6500! Necks and arms were just worn out. All of the counters were getting the same number independently. This is possibly the largest roost of Chimney Swifts in the Gulf Coast region. It is an historic structure and we are working hard and fast to make sure it is preserved. This is an amazing discovery thanks to Cindy Horswell's article for the Houston Chronicle and Gene Odom who read the article and began investigating the site around the old sugar mill. It is truly amazing to see the swirling masses of swifts enter this stack.

Mary Anne Weber, Education Director
Houston Audubon Society



Photo by Gene Odom

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Driftwood Wildlife Association

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*A volunteer organization
dedicated to promoting
research
and
providing community education
in the areas of
wildlife rehabilitation,
and avian natural history.*

Officers:

Don Connell.....President

Georgian Kyle.....Secretary

Paul Kyle.....Treasurer

**Editors for *Chaetura*
Georgian and Paul Kyle**

Research and Rehabilitation

Driftwood Wildlife Association publications continue to be useful to rehabilitators throughout North America. A list of these may be found on the "Publications" page of our web site.

Education

Our two web sites were well-visited again in 2009 with more than 95,000 visits to date, and are our most efficient way of disseminating educational information. We continue to work with the Travis Audubon Society at Chaetura Canyon to provide workshops on a variety of conservation and habitat issues. For more information, please visit the TAS web site at www.TravisAudubon.org

With Appreciation

We wish to express our thanks to the many members, supporters and contributors who have helped make the Driftwood Wildlife Association recognized as a continent-wide conservation organization. We welcome your comments on past and current projects as well as suggestions for the future.

Hays County Master Naturalist Chapter Partners with DWA

The purpose of the Texas Master Naturalist Program is "to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our communities." This mission includes educating the public on natural resources, but it also includes managing, maintaining, and improving the environment for the benefit of wildlife and the public. After completing an in-depth training program in wildlife and natural resource management, members donate a minimum of 40 volunteer hours annually.

In 2009, the Hays County Master Naturalist Chapter began a partnership with the Driftwood Wildlife Association to include volunteer opportunities to assist with Chimney Swift conservation projects and net lane clearing for bird banding nets for local bird census projects.

Migratory Bird Banding

After a banding hiatus of more than ten years, the Driftwood Wildlife Association is once again involved in migratory bird banding. Under the permit of Master Bander Dr. Ross Dawkins, Ann and Don Connell initiated a new bird banding station on a ranch in Mason County in 2008.

The ranch is on the western edge of the Llano Uplift in Mason County.

Historically, a working cattle ranch, it is now actively managed to enhance wildlife habitat with a variety of management tools including cedar (*Juniperus ashii*) control and rotational prescribed burns.

The bird nets are located in two different habitats. One (H: Highland) is xeric with a predominance of smaller grasses (e.g. sideoats grama) and forbs with brush containing mesquite, persimmon, Condalia, agarita, beebrush, and soapberry. The juniper has been cleared. The other area (R: Riparian) is in the floodplain of the Llano River and has larger bunch grasses (e.g. eastern grama and switchgrass) with dense brush containing small sycamores and buttonbush. The cadre of nets used at both locales takes advantage of the varying flora. About 15 nets are used at each locale. Banding activities occur during the spring, early fall and early winter to best census migratory and over-wintering species.

Calcite Ranch Bird Banding

	2008		2009									
period	8/27-9/15		11/16-11/23		3/30-4/2	4/18-5/17		8/29-9/11		11/2-11/15		
location	H	R	H	R	H	H	R	H	R	H	R	
net-hours	388	32	360	360	245	1020	905	465	510	570	560	
individuals banded	103	8	245	157	147	861	398	176	184	319	325	
Sharp-shinned Hawk						1					1	
Spotted Sandpiper							2				2	
Mourning Dove						2	1				3	
Common Ground-Dove	6			5	3	9		2	2		27	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo						1	2				3	
Eastern Screech-Owl										1	1	
Common Poorwill	2				1	2	1	2	1	3	5	17
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	1				1	4	4	17		29	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	2				6	11	19	11	14		63	
Rufous Hummingbird								1			1	
Green Kingfisher							1				1	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker						2					2	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher								1	1		2	
Traill's Flycatcher		1							1		2	
Alder Flycatcher						2	4	1	4		11	
Willow Flycatcher						2			1		3	
Least Flycatcher	6					35	4	17	20		82	
Eastern Phoebe	1		3	1		1			1	3	3	13
Say's Phoebe					1						1	
Vermilion Flycatcher						4	1				5	
Ash-throated Flycatcher					3	5	2				10	
Great Crested Flycatcher						1					1	
Western Kingbird							1				1	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher						1	5				6	
Loggerhead Shrike			1					2			3	
White-eyed Vireo									1		1	
Bell's Vireo	3				1	80	24	1	3		112	
Black-capped Vireo	1					3					4	
Blue-headed Vireo						1					1	
Hutton's Vireo			1								1	
Red-eyed Vireo							1				1	

Calcite Ranch Bird Banding

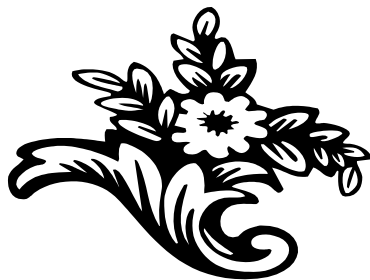
	2008				2009							
period	8/27 - 9/15		11/16 - 11/23		3/30 - 4/2	4/18 - 5/17		8/29 - 9/11		11/2 - 11/15		
location	H	R	H	R	H	H	R	H	R	H	R	
net-hours	388	32	360	360	245	1020	905	465	510	570	560	
individuals banded	103	8	245	157	147	861	398	176	184	319	325	
Western Scrub-Jay			1			1					2	
Black-crested Titmouse	3					7	1	3			14	
Verdin	5		5			2				1	13	
Bushtit											7	7
Cactus Wren							1				1	
Carolina Wren							1		3		4	
Bewick's Wren	9	1			1	10	1	6	3	7	1	39
House Wren				1		13	3				5	22
Marsh Wren				5	1		1				7	14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			2	3	1	1	1			5	10	23
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher					4	5	5		1			15
Swainson's Thrush						1					1	2
Hermit Thrush			1		1					4	2	8
Northern Mockingbird	10		5	1	2	15	4	5		8		50
Sage Thrasher										1		1
Tennessee Warbler						1						1
Orange-crowned Warbler			3	2	7	21	4			2	9	48
Nashville Warbler						5	2				7	14
Yellow Warbler	1					26	8		9			44
Magnolia Warbler						1						1
Myrtle Warbler				1								1
Black-and-white Warbler							1					1
American Redstart						2						2
Northern Waterthrush							4					4
Mourning Warbler									2			2
McGillivray's Warbler						3	1					4
Common Yellowthroat						4	21				4	29
Wilson's Warbler		2				11	4		5			22
Yellow-breasted Chat						2		1	4			7
Summer Tanager	2					15	12		6			35
Spotted Towhee			7	2			2			9	12	32

Calcite Ranch Bird Banding

	2008				2009							
period	8/27 - 9/15		11/16 - 11/23		3/30 - 4/2	4/18 - 5/17		8/29 - 9/11		11/2 - 11/15		
location	H	R	H	R	H	H	R	H	R	H	R	
net-hours	388	32	360	360	245	1020	905	465	510	570	560	
individuals banded	103	8	245	157	147	861	398	176	184	319	325	
Canyon Towhee	5		3			2			1	1		12
Cassin's Sparrow	1		1			26		11		3		42
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	14		3		2	5	4	18	16	4	8	74
Chipping Sparrow			1		6	2				9	1	19
Clay-colored Sparrow					39	215	20				1	275
Field Sparrow	1		27	10	7	3		3		20	15	86
Vesper Sparrow			42	5	14	22	1			56	5	145
Lark Sparrow	1				6	37	4	18	1			67
Black-throated Sparrow	18		6		5	5	1	23	3	2		63
Lark Bunting					2					1		3
Savannah Sparrow			45	3	1	4	12			49	4	118
Grasshopper Sparrow	1		19		16	40				33	3	112
LeConte's Sparrow										7		7
Fox Sparrow			1								1	2
Song Sparrow				36						5	81	122
Lincoln's Sparrow			16	44	7	31	28			38	96	260
Swamp Sparrow				7							7	14
White-throated Sparrow										1		1
White-crowned Sparrow			34	14	2	7	3			39	18	117
Slate-colored Junco											1	1
Northern Cardinal	4	3	7	8		7	6	3	11	2	3	54
Pyrrhuloxia	3		1		1	4		2			1	12
Blue Grosbeak						6	29		11			46
Indigo Bunting						1	1					2
Painted Bunting	1					90	47	1	32			171
Dickcissel									2			2
Red-winged Blackbird						1	22				7	30
Western Meadowlark					1							1
Yellow-headed Blackbird						1						1
Bronzed Cowbird							1					1
Orchard Oriole						24	66	1	5			96

Calcite Ranch Bird Banding

	2008				2009							
period	8/27	11/16	3/30	4/18	8/29	11/2						
	-	-	-	-	-	-						
	9/15	11/23	4/2	5/17	9/11	11/15						
location	H	R	H	R	H	H	R	H	R	H	R	
net-hours	388	32	360	360	245	1020	905	465	510	570	560	
individuals banded	103	8	245	157	147	861	398	176	184	319	325	
Bullock's Oriole						1						1
Scott's Oriole						3	1					4
House Finch	1		10	6	6	13	2	41	2	2		83
Lesser Goldfinch				2		1	1	1	1			6
Total	103	8	244	157	147	861	398	179	184	316	325	2922
H: Highland												
R: Riparian												



In Memory...

We are sad to announce the loss of long-time friend and supporter
Lowell Linney.

Lowell and his wife Leah (owners of Medical Parkway Printing)
have been underwriters of Chaetura for many years.

Jack Dempsey Freeman
was an avid supporter of Chimney Swifts,
and one of our first Research Associates. Jack passed early in the
morning just minutes after the summer solstice...so he made it to summer
and passed peacefully at home. He was 89.

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in honor of the marriage of
Charles and Amy Stephens

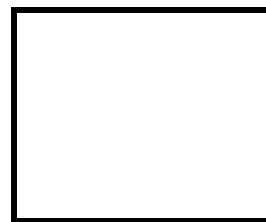
Laddie Janda
in memory of
Bettie Janda

Natasha and Alf Seegert
in honor of the conservation work of
Nate McVaugh and Lydia Middendorf

Brush Freeman
Petra and Ladd Hockey
Georgean and Paul Kyle
Lori Markoff
in memory of
Jack Dempsey Freeman

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Visit our web site at:
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Chaetura

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