## What is a Swift Night Out?

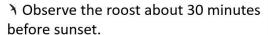
- Continent-wide effort to raise awareness about and encourage interest in Chimney Swifts and Vaux's Swifts.
- A People gather to observe swifts entering a roost for the night during fall migration.
- Collect citizen science data by counting the swifts observed.
- Ywitness an inspiring avian aerial display during this natural phenomenon.





## **How To Host a Swift Night Out**

- involve walking/driving to suitable habitat to look and listen for swifts.
- ↑ Pick a night (Friday, Saturday, or Sunday) during the second weekend of August and/or September.
- ₹ Get permission from property owner before hosting an event.
- ₹ Invite friends, family, children, local birding clubs, nature enthusiasts, city officials, etc. to come along.



- ₹ Count the number of swifts that enter the chimney. (Even sites with smaller numbers provide important data.)
- A Make observations of the weather.
- A Share the data with the Wisconsin Chimney Swift Working Group or on the online eBird database.





if you are unable to locate a roost on your own, take a look at reports on eBird from previous years to locate an established roost near you.

## Ways to Engage People Attending a SNO Event

## 1) Have a Question and Answer session to help educate attendees about the species:

Q: Do swifts dive head-first into a chimney or flutter and drop-down tail first?

A: They do both!

**Q:** Why migrate and roost in large numbers?

**A:** There's warmth in numbers: during cold nights, the temperature inside a chimney roost can be 70°F warmer than outside.

**Q:** Do Chimney swifts fly at night?

**A:** No, swifts are diurnal and spend their day flying, then stop to rest and roost at night.

Q: Where do chimney swifts spend the winter?

A: Central and South America.

Q: What do swifts eat?

**A:** Swifts are strict aerial insectivores, eating insects while flying. Insects they eat include; beetles, house flies, bees, mayflies and mosquitoes.

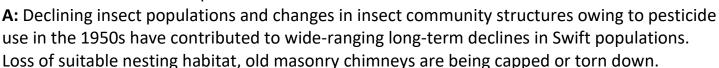
Q: What is the average lifespan of a chimney swift?

**A:** The average life span is 4.6 years, with the oldest on record being at least 14 years old!

Q: How fast can a swift fly?

**A:** It's capable of nearly 100 miles per hour, although normal flight is 18 -30 miles per hour.

**Q:** What are potential reasons for the population declines observed in this species?





https://www.wiswifts.org/videos-from-swift-night-out-events/

- 3) Offer kids a color page to take home featuring swifts (part of this handout)!
- 4) Bring along Chimney Swift Wisconsin DNR Wildcards to handout to attendees! <a href="https://www.wiswifts.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ChimneySwiftWildCards-04-1.pdf">https://www.wiswifts.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ChimneySwiftWildCards-04-1.pdf</a>
- 5) If you have questions or need help hosting a SNO contact:
  Wisconsin Chimney Swift Working Group <a href="https://www.wiswifts.org">www.wiswifts.org</a> or <a href="https://www.wiswifts.org">helpchimneyswifts@gmail.com</a>



