



# Chimney Swifts

## What is this structure & why is it here?

This is a Chimney Swift Tower. Chimney Swifts need deep shafts in which to nest, raise their young and sleep at night.

## What are Chimney Swifts?

Chimney Swifts are small, black, fast, high-flying migratory birds that winter in South America and are in North America from March thru October. They feed exclusively on small flying insects.



## Why should we care about Chimney Swifts?

- A nest of five noisy baby Chimney Swifts and their parents will eat as many as 12,000 insects (mosquitoes, gnats, flies, termites, etc.) every day.
- Chimney Swifts historically used large, hollow trees for nests and roosts. As the ancient forests were cut down, they learned to use chimneys and other structures instead.
- Chimney Swifts now rely almost entirely on man-made structures such as chimneys and towers like this one for nesting and roosting sites.
- Because they cannot perch like songbirds, Chimney Swifts must have deep shafts in which to cling vertically, raise their families and to roost at night.
- Chimney Swifts are protected by state wildlife codes and federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916.
- Chimney Swifts are declining in numbers and we can make a difference in their fate.
- Like watching a beautiful sunset, the aesthetic value of observing Chimney Swifts' aerial acrobatics and interactions is a simple pleasure that nature has to offer.



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