



The City of Whitewater gained its Wisconsin Bird City designation in 2014. The Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) is responsible for implementing and fulfilling the requirements to maintain this designation. The UFC has chosen the

**Chimney Swift
Whitewater's
Bird of the Year**

2015

The UFC is bringing awareness and appreciation of this little-known bird through education, events, and encouraging the building of man-made habitats, chimney swift towers.



Chimney Swift
Chaetura pelagica

RESOURCES

Please click each

chimneyswifts.org

allaboutbirds.com

birdcitywisconsin.org

whitewater-wi.gov

**URBAN FORESTRY
COMMISSION**

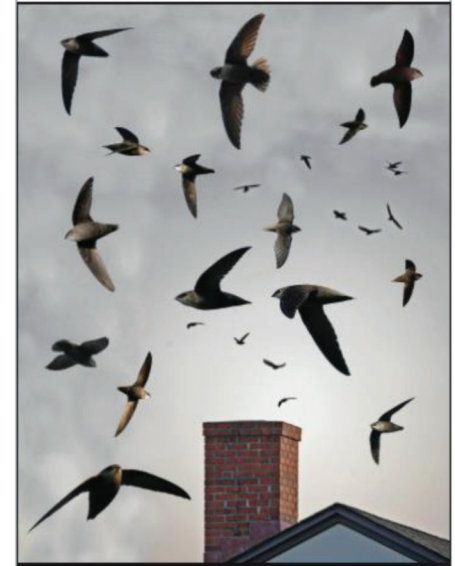


For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karen Coburn, Chair, Urban Forestry Commission

262 473 5453

krncoburn@yahoo.com

Chimney Swifts

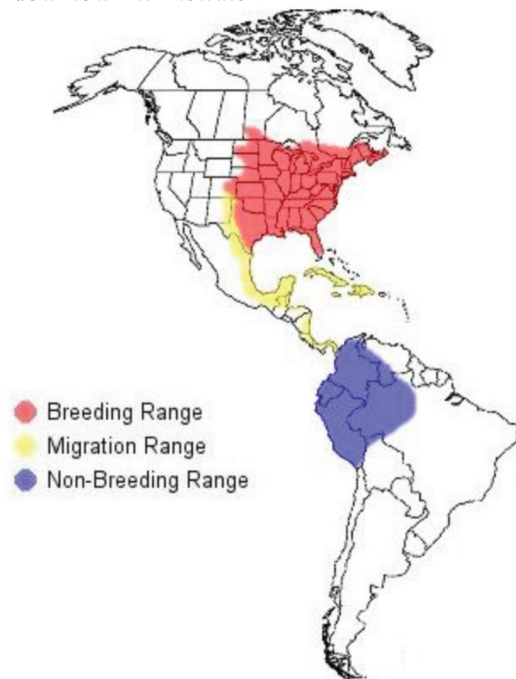


Chimney Swifts are named for their habit of using urban structures, especially chimneys, as roosting and nesting sites. As chimneys disappear, so do the swifts. They need our help.

SAVE THE SWIFTS

Chimney Swifts need more homes! Besides adding to the diversity of our environment, Chimney Swifts provide **mosquito control** that is pesticide-free, costs nothing, and is fun to watch. Let's continue to welcome them to Whitewater by building swift towers in our yards and public places.

Chimney Swifts range from Canada to South America. Wisconsin serves as part of their breeding range as shown in red. Chimney Swifts are frequently seen in downtown Whitewater.



FACTS ABOUT SWIFTS

- Each bird can eat more than **1,000 mosquitoes a day**
 - **Unique long claws are suited only for clinging to the walls of vertical surfaces, cannot perch on branches**
 - **Several hundred can roost in one chimney**
 - **Remain in flight from dawn to dusk, eating, drinking and bathing while on the wing**
- Known as “flying cigars” they have a 12-inch wingspan and only 5-inch body length**
- **“Song” is a rapid stream of high chattering notes while in flight**
 - **Resemble swallows but swifts’ wings are longer and more pointed**

How can you help the Chimney Swifts?

If you have a masonry or clay flue-tile chimney, keep the top open and the damper closed from April through October to provide a nest site for these insect-eaters.

Eliminate the use of insecticides on your property. The swifts eat flying insects.

Support the building of swift towers.

BUILD A TOWER

There has been great decline in Chimney Swift population over the past several years. Building towers will provide them with more habitat.



Chimney Swift towers should be 12 ft. or taller and may be made of wood or masonry.