

## NS HCF Final Report

### NS Swiftwatch: Engaging Nova Scotians in Chimney Swift Recovery

March 31, 2011

*Project goal:* To maintain, protect and, in the long-term, increase the amount of suitable Chimney Swift nesting and roosting habitat in NS.

#### *Objectives:*

- 1) Develop a volunteer-based, NS-wide Swiftwatch program that includes monitoring, stewardship, research and outreach components;
- 2) Pilot NS Swiftwatch in 2011;
- 3) Build a NS volunteer network to participate in Swiftwatch in 2012;
- 4) Identify additional roost and nest sites throughout NS, and;
- 5) Gather the information needed to develop an outreach strategy and produce outreach materials for chimney owners in 2012.

#### *Key Results:*

- Ally hired as Coordinator in May of 2011.
- Bilingual CHSW monitoring protocol and data sheets drafted with input from project partners and piloted during migration/breeding period.
- Conducted outreach throughout season via provincial nature listservs, naturalist club announcements and BSC Latest News articles to recruit volunteers and encourage reporting of swift sightings and nest/roost site locations. Spread word of Maritimes Swiftwatch project and updated results over the season through press releases, newspaper articles, TV/radio interviews and an article in Rural Delivery Magazine, as well as a year-end newsletter.
- Gave 3 Swiftwatch presentations in NS, including at the 2011 ASFWB conference/AGM in Antigonish, NS.
- Over 25 volunteers conducted evening surveys at 9 roost and nest sites (including a newly identified site) for a total of 87 survey hours (Table 1). Monitoring followed a pre-determined 6-night schedule synchronized with Ontario and Quebec to avoid double-counting swifts migrating through neighbouring regions. Some volunteers monitored their sites throughout the season above and beyond the 6-night schedule and sought out other possible roost and nest sites in their communities. An additional 7 NS sites and communities were identified for surveying in 2012 (Table 2).
- Drafted a Chimney Inventory/Assessment survey protocol to investigate urban habitat availability and selection (adapted from Ontario's model). Piloted this survey with partners and volunteers in two communities (Wolfville, NS and Sussex, NB) in fall/winter.

- At the time of this writing, Denis Lepage is creating an online portal for Swiftwatch volunteers to enter and review their data and reports, to be functional by the start of the 2012 field season.

**Table 1:** Number of Chimney Swifts counted during evening roost watches at seventeen regularly monitored sites (\* denotes no survey conducted).

Province	Town or Location	Swiftwatch Site	29-May	2-June	6-June	24-July	28-July	1-August
NS	St. Bernard/Weymouth	Church	101	77	120	188	181	170
NS	McGowan Lake	Unused smithy	87	124	119	*	74	37
NS	Middleton	School	91	123	183	154	234	254
NS	Wolfville	Robie Tufts Nature Centre	62	82	62	51	52	48
NS	Upper Falmouth	House	7	7	9	56	200	92
NS	Martock	House	2	*	2	0	0	0
NS	Bible Hill	Nova Scotia Agricultural College	1	0	0	0	0	1
NS	New Glasgow	School	228	271	517	223	262	223
NS	Oxford	Freestanding chimney	2	0	2	5	8	9
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>581</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1014</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>1011</b>	<b>834</b>

**Table 2:** Additional roost sites monitored on a casual basis, including locations where a specific roost chimney has not yet been identified.

Province	Site	Building Type
NS	Inglisville	Community hall
NS	University Hall, Acadia University	Institutional building
NS	St. Joseph Renewal Centre, Mabou	church
NS	Kentville	Private residence
NS	Wolfville	Private residence
NS	Greenwich	Private residence
NS	Springhill	Multiple buildings in community