



The Chimney Swift Challenge, September 28, 2021

submitted by Stella Wear, Trip Leader

This may sound like a repeat story from last year, but it happened to us again. Getting to see Chimney Swifts this year proved to be somewhat of a challenge. The September 21 watch had to be postponed because of two days of heavy rain. Then just finding roosting places became a challenge.

The event was rescheduled to Lindley Elementary School, 2700 Camden Road, Greensboro, for September 28. The event attracted several neighborhood observers as well as 29 PBC and TGPAS participants. Several of the participants were seeing the Chimney Swift roosting activity for the first time. The swifts were slow to arrive, but when they did, it was a good showing of 700+ birds. The swooping, circling, and diving into the chimney was exciting.

For the past few years of watching during this fall migration, thousands of swifts were roosting at the Carolina Theater in downtown Greensboro. The swifts were not there in great numbers this year, but lots of crows are roosting nearby. Are the crows influencing the swifts? It is interesting to note how swift patterns change. Where are those large numbers roosting now?

The Chimney Swifts will be around for a few weeks into October before they head south to the Amazon Basin for the winter. They will start to return in mid-March.



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