

Swift Night Out September 6 and 21, 2017

Submitted by Stella Wear

Swift's Night Out, Part 1 and Part 2, were big successes again this year. The number of swifts each night was smaller than the event held in September 2016 but still impressive events.

On September 6, the weather was rainy most of the day. Seventeen members of T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society and Piedmont Bird Club braved the less than perfect conditions and gathered on the roof at M'Coul's Public House in downtown Greensboro to watch for the swifts. Hundreds of Chimney Swifts swirled about near the Carolina Theater but when it was roosting time very few used that chimney for their roosting site. Two hawks were nearby, one on the chimney and another on the roof. Swifts left to go to another place that was not determined. What a puzzling outcome! Was it caused by the weather or the birds of prey? All in all, the onlookers found this very interesting.

On September 21, the weather was ideal. Twenty-four members of TGPAS and PBC gathered to watch a second time. Thousands of swifts came and circled above the theater, but they played a trick on us. This time they roosted at another site nearby at 330 South Greene Street. Interesting to wonder why the popular Carolina Theater chimney was not their favorite spot this time. Again, it turned out to be a most entertaining event.

These were joint events sponsored by T. Gilbert Pearson and Piedmont Bird Club. Many thanks go out to Matt Wangerin, Field Trip Chair for PBC, and Dennis Burnette, Field Trip Coordinator for TGPAS, for advertising these fun events. Another big thanks to Julien McCarthy for his photo.



Photo Credit: Julien McCarthy