

Chimney Swift

Chaetura pelagica



Photo: Bruce Di Labio



Photo: R. Curtis



PROVINCIAL STATUS

Threatened

DESCRIPTION

- sparrow-sized aerial insectivore
- black, swallow-like
- pointed stiffly held wings, stubby tail
- clings to vertical surfaces at nest and roosting sites

VOCALIZATION

- loud, rapid ticking or twittering notes

PREFERRED HABITAT

- high places

MIGRATION

Spring arrival: early May

Fall departure: early September

WINTERING GROUNDS

- northern South America

LOCAL POPULATION

- common but declining in Renfrew County

THREATS

- habitat destruction and alteration
- pesticide accumulation

NICHE INFORMATION

- eats flying insects
- eaten by small hawks, falcons, rats, snakes
- active in daytime
- lives in woodlands and open areas near human habitation
- nests in chimneys, silos, wells, rafters, air shafts or hollow trees (snags)

WHAT WE CAN DO

- reduce pesticide use
- retain dead trees (snags) as nesting sites
- construction of nesting and roosting towers

