

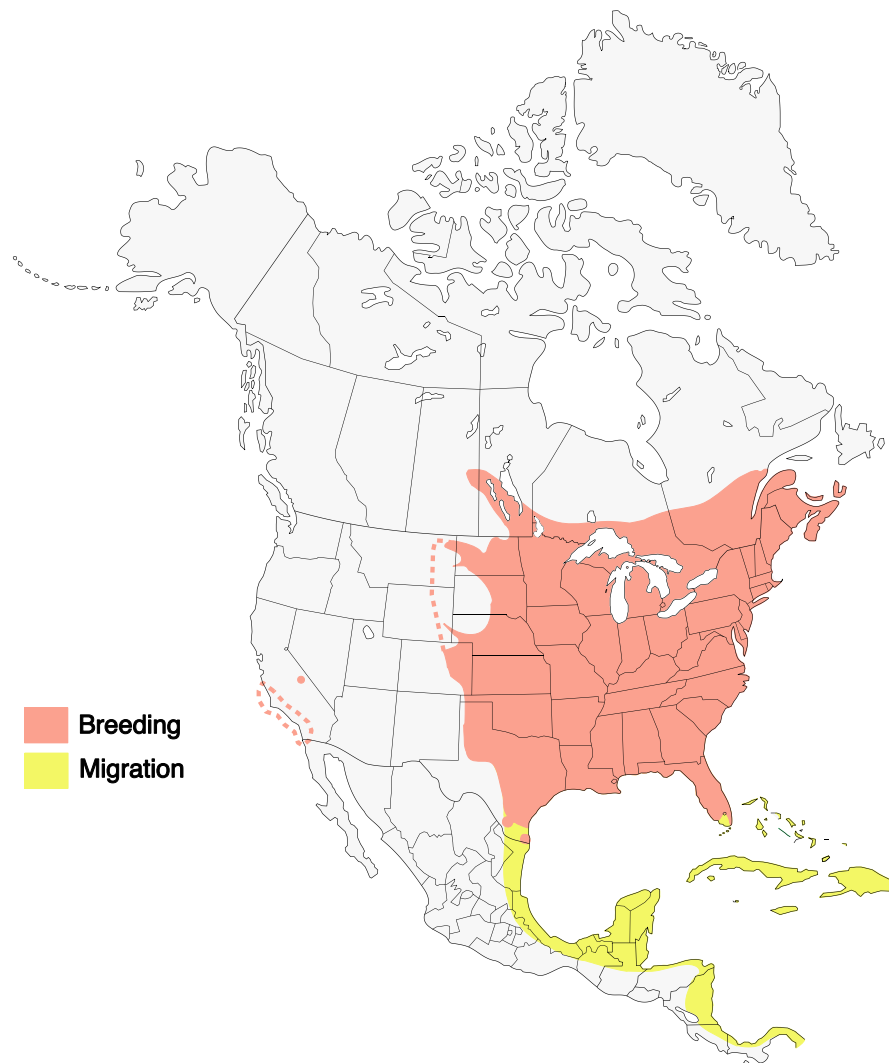


Species at Risk Profile Series: Chimney Swift



- Chimney Swifts are listed as Threatened in Canada.
- They are sometimes confused with swallows, but swifts have a long, cigar-shaped body, long, narrow, pointed wings, and a jerky flight.
- Chimney Swifts eat insects while flying and often feed near waterbodies.
- Although swifts nest singly, they often feed together in large flocks.
- They nest and roost in vertical, hollow structures—now almost exclusively chimneys.
- Historically they lived in large hollow trees, but these are rare due to forestry practices.
- Their nest is made of twigs glued to the side of the chimney with their sticky saliva.
- Chimney Swifts mate for life and return to the same nest site each year.
- Nests generally have 4-5 eggs, and both parents incubate.
- Chimney Swifts are capable of lowering their body temperature if the weather becomes too cold, reducing how much energy they need.





Conservation

- The Canadian population of Chimney Swifts has declined by 95% from 1968-2005.
- They are part of the fastest declining group of birds in Canada, the aerial insectivores.
- The reasons behind this group's decline are not entirely known, but are likely related to habitat loss and pesticide use.
- The loss of suitable nesting chimneys has contributed severely to their decline.
- Chimney loss is only increasing, and in 30 years very few sites are expected to remain.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Chimney Swifts [here](#).

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