Chimney Swift Monitoring Form

Observation Date (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/2024   Chimney _____

Observers _____

_____

_____

Times (HH:MM 24 hours)

START	FINISH	SUNSET	FIRST ENTRY	LAST ENTRY

START TEMP	WIND SPEED	PRECIPITATION	CLOUD COVER	VIDEO (Y/N)

Total Swifts in for the Night _____

Maximum Number of Swifts Overhead at Same Time _____

Other Species (Common Nighthawk, Barn Swallow, Bat, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

Comments: parking and monitoring conditions, tips for future monitors

_____

_____

_____

TIME	IN	OUT		TIME	IN	OUT		TIME	IN	OUT
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-
:		-		:		-		:		-

Wind, precipitation, and cloud cover, and guide are adapted from Birds Canada:

https://www.birdscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Ontario_Swiftwatch_Protocol_2020.pdf

Wind (Beaufort Scale)

0   Calm, smoke rises vertically
1   Light air, smoke drifts
2   Light breeze, wind felt on face
3   Gentle breeze, small twigs move
4   Moderate breeze, small branches move
5   Fresh breeze, small trees sway
6   Strong breeze, large branches in motion
7   Near gale, whole trees moving

Precipitation

None
Rain
Hail
Trace /Occasional Rain
Thunderstorms

Cloud Cover (%)

0   Clear
1   10%
2   20%
3   30%
4   40%
5   50%
6   60%
7   70%
8   80%
9   90%
10   Overcast
11   Fog

The quick guide to swift monitoring

- Start the survey 30 min before sunset; end 30 min after sunset or until it is too dark to see.
- Survey a safe location in a public area.
- Under "Net Number of Swifts Entering Chimney", record the estimated number of swifts in the chimney at the end of your watch.
- Individual birds may try a few "practice runs" before they enter the chimney. Do not count the birds that dive down but do not enter the chimney.
- Mentally "grab" groups of 5, 10, or 20 swifts as they enter the chimney. Counting large numbers of swifts can be challenging – do your best!
- During gaps in activity, tell your monitoring partner your latest subtotal (without taking your eyes off the chimney) and restart counting from zero.
- Have fun! Thank you for helping to monitor these special birds.

Shorthand for Submitting Entries and Exits (Ins and Outs)

- The time of any entry or exit is written as ":MM".
- The hour can be determined from the time of the first entry.
- The number of entries is written as a number. If zero, the number can be omitted.
- The number of exits is written as a negative number. If zero, the number can be omitted.
- The values can be separated by one or more spaces to assist readability.
- Observations are separated by one or more spaces.
- Each observation can be on a separate line.

Original Format

    7:32 1in
    7:33 1 out
    7:45 2 in 1 out
    7:50 6 in
    8:03 4 in
    8:15 1 in

Shorthand Format (one line per observation)

    :32 1
    :33 -1
    :45 2 -1
    :50 6
    :03 4

Shorthand Format (one line)

    :32 1   :33 -1   :45 2 -1   :50 6 :03 4

If necessary, a computer program can translate the shorthand format into the original format with observations separated by semicolons.

    7:32 1in; 7:33 1 out; 7:45 2 in 1 out; 7:50 6 in; 8:03 4 in; 8:15 1 in