

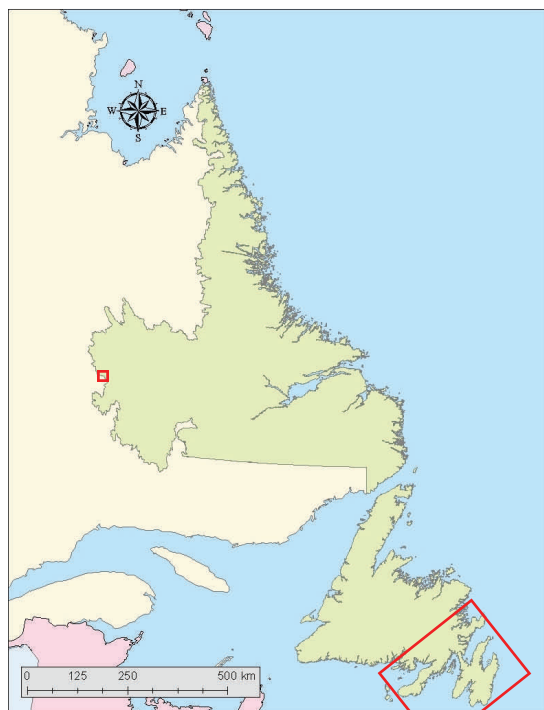
Chimney Swift

(*Chaetura pelagica*)

- Sometimes mistaken for a swallow, the Chimney Swift is distinguished by its cigar-shaped body, and long, narrow, pointed wings.
- When the wings are folded they project beyond the short spiny tail.
- Chimney Swift are dark brown with a pale throat.
- Chimney Swift flight is a quick and jerky.



Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Chimney Swifts are aerial foragers, concentrating near water where insects are abundant. They historically roosted and nested in hollow trees, but also have used chimneys. Chimney Swift have been sighted on the southeast coast of Newfoundland. There has also been a single report in Labrador. Most sightings are in the fall or spring. They winter throughout South America.

Population Trends

There have been significant declines (7.8%/year from 1968-2005) in all Canadian provinces where data is available. Chimney Swifts have not been confirmed as breeders in the Province, but are thought to do so. Provincial population trends are unknown.

Limiting Factors and Threats

The disappearance of old, hollow trees, the loss of older type chimneys, chimney sweeping during the breeding period, and a decrease in the abundance of insects due to pesticide use has contributed to their decline.

Special Significance

Chimney Swift is the only swift species found in eastern North America and it has aroused the interest of the public and many birdwatchers.

You can help protect the Chimney Swift:

- Report any sightings to the Wildlife Division.
- Participate in bird surveys and counts.
- Support habitat protection for all our rare species.

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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