

MANITOBA CHIMNEY SWIFT INITIATIVE (MCSI) – ST. ADOLPHE 2013 SUMMARY

The monitoring of nest sites in 2013 was the seventh consecutive season of collecting information about the breeding behaviour of chimney swifts in St. Adolphe. A. Lagasse will be remembered fondly as an active participant of the chimney swift program. Many thanks to the avian landlords, community supporters, the RM of Ritchot, and MCSI monitors for their continued assistance and support throughout the season: S. and A. Leclerc; J. Brodeur, President, and members of Le Club Amical; A. Biggar, President/CEO, Big Country RV (tenant) and H. Brodeur (owner) of the historic “Brodeur Bros.” site; Fr. Chartier and parishioners of the St. Adolphe Parish Church; L. Verhaeghe; B. Stefaniuk; F. May; R. Austin; L. Cocks; R. Cocks; K. Fisher; E. Gyselman; F. Machovec; J. Machovec; M. Quigley, and R. Stewart.

The first chimney swifts arrived in St. Adolphe on Mother’s Day, May 12. The nesting season that followed was the best on record. Three sites produced an estimated total of 9 juveniles: 2 at the Church (fledged Aug. 1); 2 at NE Club Amical (fledged Aug. 3); and 5 at Main St. (fledged Aug. 9). The late-June arriving pairs at SE Club Amical and Brodeur Bros./Big Country RV were not successful in their nesting attempts.

Nesting success is linked to favourable conditions that make feeding the young in the nest possible. In 2013, feeding rates were at or above average and this reflected an abundance of insects in the air column. There was no severe weather this year, that is, no extended periods of high heat, humidity, strong winds, or drenching rain occurred so airborne insects thrived.

The local chimney swifts left St. Adolphe Aug. 12-21. Migrants finished using local sites around Aug. 23-24.

MCSI sponsored a Swift Night Out at the Church grounds on Monday, June 3. Many thanks are extended to our coordinator, Frank Machovec, for hosting the event that drew over 20 enthusiastic bird watchers to St. Adolphe. The chimney swifts put on, as usual, a great aerial show. Leon Verhaeghe kindly opened the Church facilities for the group.

Frank maintains the MCSI website: www.mbchimneyswift.ca Check the site for general links e.g., MCSI brochure, monitoring guides and for specific St. Adolphe information. Frank’s blogspot which tracks developments over the monitoring season is at: <http://swift-notes.blogspot.ca/>

In 2013, a national monitoring program was implemented to do a four night census of roosting sites in late May and early June. Distribution and abundance information is now being collected for chimney swifts in the Canadian summering range. In 2014, we will support the national initiative again and track the progress of the St. Adolphe chimney swift flock. See you at the chimney sides next spring!