

CHIMNEY SWIFT NEST SITE OUTCOMES IN ST. ADOLPHE, MB, 2022

Chimney Swifts using nest sites in St. Adolphe have been monitored annually since 2007. Therefore, 2022 was the 16th year of observing swifts in town. To assess breeding success, behaviour observations plus the physical evidence seen in cleanout traps were used for the Brodeur Bros./Daycare and Main St. sites; only behaviour observations were available for the Club Amical, Church, and 2019-31 nest sites.

Merci et thank you to our swift-friendly “landlords”: S. and A. Leclerc; owners of site 2019-31; Paroisse St. Adolphe; the RM of Ritchot; and the staff of the St Adolphe Child Care Centre. Your support of this Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative research program and St Adolphe’s Chimney Swifts is appreciated!

In 2022, Chimney Swifts arrived in St Adolphe in mid-May which is typical. However, the swifts were extremely challenged by the cool spring weather and successive Colorado Low storms. All nest building was delayed until June 4-6 which extended the previously known cutoff date for initiating a possible successful breeding attempt (June 3-4).

Once the Chimney Swifts were underway with their breeding attempts, a record-breaking year occurred. Fledglings made it up and out of four of the five nest sites which were monitored. Unfortunately, the Brodeur Bros./Daycare eggs hatched on a very rainy day and feeding behaviour stopped within 2 days. No nest slippage occurred, so it appears that poor feeding conditions contributed to the nest failure.

The first fledging event for ‘22 took place at NE Club Amical in late July, ~ 2 weeks ahead of the other 3 sites which had fledglings emerge August 11-13. This unusual clump of mid-August fledging appeared to be supported by a bounty of airborne insects. The unsuccessful breeding swifts from Brodeur Bros./Daycare remained in St Adolphe until shortly after the last fledglings were airborne (Main St., Aug. 13). Then the number of swifts seen in town decreased in number. No pre-migratory groupings took place as was typical in 2007-2009. All the Chimney Swifts were gone from St Adolphe by August 20.

A summary of the Chimney Swift breeding attempt outcomes for St Adolphe nest sites, in 2022, is tabled below. These results are based on 117 hours of observations.

SITE	NESTING ATTEMPT?	OUTCOME OF NESTING ATTEMPT
SE CLUB AMICAL	YES	SUCCESSFUL
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BRODEUR BROS./ St Adolphe Child Care Centre	YES	FAILED
CHURCH	YES	SUCCESSFUL
MAIN ST.	YES	SUCCESSFUL
2019-31	UNKNOWN	Monitoring was limited due to Covid-19 issues.

I’m looking forward to seeing you by the St Adolphe chimney sides in 2023!

Prepared by Barb Stewart, Sila Consultants, November 28, 2022; sila.stewart@gmail.com