

CHIMNEY SWIFT NEST SITE OUTCOMES IN ST. ADOLPHE, MB, 2023

Chimney Swifts using five nest sites in St. Adolphe have been monitored annually since 2007. So, 2023 was the 17th consecutive year of observing Chimney Swifts in town. Behaviour observations plus the physical evidence seen in cleanout traps were used to assess nesting success at Brodeur Bros./Daycare and Main St. Only behaviour observations were available to assess nesting success at Southeast Club Amical, Northeast Club Amical and the Church; there are no accessible cleanout traps associated with those chimneys.

Merci et thank you to our swift-friendly landlords and tenants: S. and A. Leclerc; 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 2023, Chimney Swifts arrived in St. Adolphe in mid-May which is typical. Nest building got underway at all five nest sites by the end of May. The birds faced a tough whiplash season of weather extremes ~ periods of high heat and smoke were punctuated by challenging stretches of cold and rain. Three nesting failures occurred during the third week of July following a weekend of extremely cold & rainy weather when feeding conditions were poor for the swifts.

Two successful nesting attempts prevailed however. The first fledging event took place at the Church ~July 27th then the second fledging event followed at Main St. ~July 31st. The unsuccessful breeding swifts from the SE and NE Club Amical plus Brodeur Bros./Daycare sites remained in St. Adolphe until shortly after the last fledglings were airborne. These unsuccessful breeding birds may have been the helpers detected at the Church and Main St. sites. A small pre-migratory grouping formed at the Church ~July 28th. All of the local Chimney Swifts were gone from St. Adolphe by August 13th.

The season seemed to be fleeting and I look forward to being back at the St. Adolphe chimney sides in 2024. See you then!

Summary of Chimney Swift breeding outcomes, for five St. Adolphe nest sites in 2023. These results are based on 101 hours of observations.

SITE	NESTING ATTEMPT?	OUTCOME OF NESTING ATTEMPT
SE CLUB AMICAL	YES	UNSUCCESSFUL; failed ~July 18.
NE CLUB AMICAL	YES	UNSUCCESSFUL; failed ~July 17.

BRODEUR BROS./ ST. ADOLPHE CHILDCARE CENTRE	YES	UNSUCCESSFUL; failed ~July 18-21.
CHURCH	YES	SUCCESSFUL; 2+ fledglings, July 27.
MAIN ST.	YES	SUCCESSFUL; 4 fledglings, July 31.

Prepared by Barb Stewart, Sila Consultants, September 29, 2023. sila.stewart@gmail.com