

Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*)

This document is useful to prevent Chimney Swift babies from falling into your fireplace or furnace/hot water pipes.

By April 15 each year (tax time) have your **chimney cleaned**; before the return of Chimney Swifts in the Spring. Also, at this time, have the chimney tech **pull back any pipes venting into the chimney and cover the end with hardware cloth before replacing**. This will prevent babies from falling into vent pipes for furnaces/hot water heaters.

CLOSE THE DAMPER. This will prevent babies from falling into the fireplace where the parents cannot care for them. Chimney Swifts are only in North America to nest and arrive in our area around Earth Day each year to raise one clutch of young; one nesting pair per chimney or artificial chimney swift tower.

We ask that **if you have a chimney where Chimney Swifts nest please DO NOT cap**. Chimney Swifts are extremely beneficial and are close to being considered endangered due to lack of nesting sites. Currently, listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and threatened in Canada due to rapid population declines.

It's important to note that only masonry chimneys are suitable. Thus, **metal lined flues and fireplace inserts** have proven deadly to Chimney Swifts and those chimneys **will need capped**.

Wildlife Rehabilitation -

Please do follow our guidelines. Our goal is to have low numbers of Chimney Swifts in care at Wildbird Recovery. No one raises healthier babies than the parent birds themselves and it costs a licensed wildlife rehabilitation center **about \$100 per baby to raise**. **Our guidelines do work. You can be proud to be part of the conservation of an important wild species.**

If you do forget to close the damper and babies fall into the fireplace - the parents CAN NOT feed them. If they are feathered and can cling, place them above the fireshef so they can climb up onto the chimney wall. *If you cannot get them up into the chimney or they are mostly naked take them to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation center ASAP.*

If local to Valencia, Pennsylvania, we highly recommend Black Knight Chimney, Inc., for all your chimney needs.

Wildbird Recovery
Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy
123 Forsythe Road, Valencia, PA 16059
Social Media: Wildbird Recovery
www.wildbirdrecovery.org
724.898.1788

