

Vaux's Swifts & Agate Hall Chimney

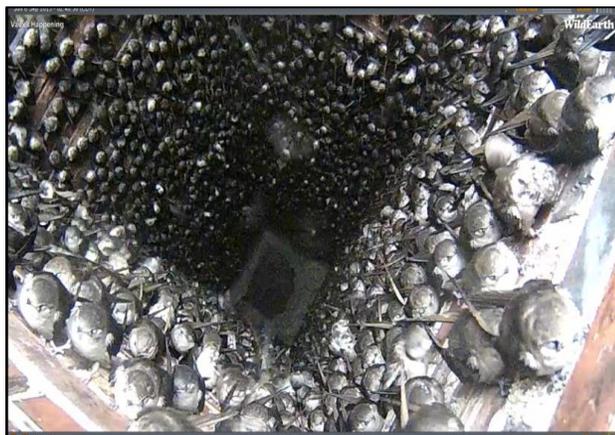


What is a Vaux's Swift?

The Vaux's Swift is a small, insect eating bird that spends the majority of its life in the air. Unable to perch on branches or telephone wires, Swifts roost inside chimneys or hollow logs at night where they huddle together to conserve body heat. These birds have large, wide beaks that help them consume thousands of insects each day. Swifts vocalize with a high-pitched twittering that becomes more pronounced as they gather in large flocks

Vaux's Swift Stats:

- Scientific name:
Chaetura vauxi
- Family: *Apodidae*
- 4.75" long, 12" wingspan
- .6oz in weight (about 2 quarters)
- Nests May-June
- Lays 3-6 white eggs (12x18mm)
- Female and male birds are similar in appearance



Swifts roosting in Monroe Chimney, WA
(www.vauxhappening.org)

Agate Hall Chimney History & Information

Vaux's Swifts have been roosting in Agate Hall Chimney during their migration for over 30 years. Last year The UO Environmental Issues Committee made a recommendation that the University designate the chimney as an ecologically important roosting site for the Swifts. Protecting Agate Chimney is especially important, as it is the second largest roost site in Oregon. At the peak of Fall migration over 12,000 birds can roost in the chimney in just one night. In the map below, gray columns represent the maximum amount of Swifts seen at roost sites along the Pacific Northwest Coast.



When are the Swifts here?

The Swifts migrate twice a year, during Spring and Fall, from Canada to Mexico and back.

During **spring migration**, the Swifts return in **late April** and depart in **mid-late May** as they migrate Northward to mate and raise offspring.

During the larger **fall migration** the Swifts return with their offspring in **late August** and depart by **late September**.

Want to know more? Interested in getting involved?

- Check out www.vauxhappening.org - a database for Vaux Swift migration research with information on other nearby roost sites.
- Watch this video of Swifts returning to Agate Chimney in Eugene, OR:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TT07lAdNaM>
- Come to one of Lane Audubon's "Welcome Back Swifts" events in the Fall or Spring! More information available at www.laneaudubon.org or the **Lane Audubon Facebook** page.