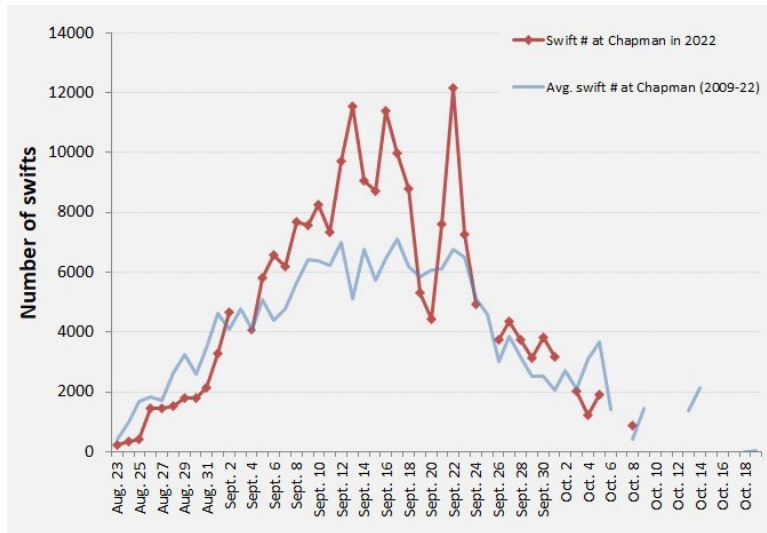


Swift Count 2022:

Numbers are up!

Why We Count Swifts

Since 2009, Portland Audubon has counted migrating Vaux's Swifts at Chapman Elementary School and other sites in the Portland-metro region as part of a community science project to monitor population trends of these exciting birds. In addition to tracking local numbers, these counts contribute toward a larger [Pacific Coast-wide tracking effort](#). The Northwest Vaux's Swift population has been declining for several decades.



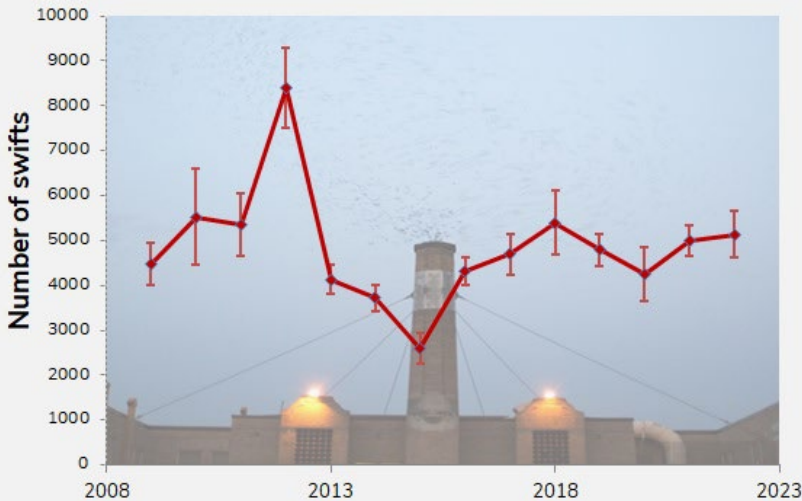
2022 at Chapman Elementary

In 2022 a team of 22 experienced volunteers & staff monitored Chapman on 41 nights between August 24th and October 8th, setting a record for number of nights of observation at this roost site. Our peak of 12,100 birds was recorded on September 22 and represents a significant increase from last year's peak of 8,500. For the third consecutive year, a significant number of birds lingered past September with the warm dry weather, with 3150 swifts still roosting in the chimney on October 1.



Annual Trend at Chapman

In 2022, the average count per night at Chapman was 5,132 swifts. This is above the 14-year average of 4,840 swifts per night and a noticeable uptick from last year's average 4,444.



Swifts Detected at Other Sites in or Near Portland

Volunteers monitored 2 other sites in the Portland Metro area in the fall of 2022 (see table below). In the Oregon City area, the swifts chose a chimney at the old High School, a site not used in 6 years. Numbers peaked at over 12,000 birds, far outstripping any previous peaks in the Oregon City area since monitoring began there in 2009!

A significant roost was also monitored at Peace Lutheran Church in NE Portland. No birds were detected at previous years' active sites in Kenton, St. Johns or Aurora.

| Site | Peak # | Days surveyed |
|--|--------|---------------|
| Oregon City Old high school (Jackson Campus) | 12,220 | 9 |
| Portland: Peace Lutheran Church | 1,020 | 6 |



Photo: E. Konditis

Predators at Chapman

Evening predation by raptors was near average, with a Cooper's Hawk present on 18 nights and successfully catching a swift 11 times. This year we also monitored the morning exit, and observed multiple predation events by American Crows.

People and Swifts

After 2 years of cancellations due to COVID-19, Portland Audubon and Chapman Elementary School were thrilled to welcome the public back to Chapman for Swift Watch! On average, 750 spectators came to view the swifts on any given night at Chapman this fall. The peak number was over 2,500!

Chimney Conservation

We want to protect chimneys that regularly host significant swift roosts! If you hear about chimneys in trouble, please contact Joe Liebezeit at jliebezeit@audubonportland.org