

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Chimney Swift How many? 2 to 200Location? Downtown Keokuk and Keokuk Middle School, Lee County, IowaType of habitat? UrbanWhen? date(s): Through 27 Oct, 1984 time: 6:00 P.M. to 6:35 P.M.Who? your name and address: Robert I. Cecil, 327 S 6th, Keokuk, Iowa 52632others with you: Noothers before or after you: No

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I decided to document my sightings of late Chimney Swifts at Keokuk due to the lateness and numbers of my sightings, and because the lateness of the species has attracted some attention in other areas.

On Oct. 16, thinking this was a new late date, I made the following notes in my personal records, "Chimney Swift, 50 est., Keokuk, 10:45 A.M. Noted dark body, cigar shape, twittering flight, short tail. Also observed birds in late afternoon, about 6:00 P.M."

The next morning I read in Iowa Bird Life 53:4 that Paul Martshing saw one on the 19th of October in 1983.

The birds remained past the 19th. In the late afternoon of the 21st, I was looking for Chimney Swifts and could not see any from my house, so I got in the car and went downtown where I thought they were centered, and could find none. I drove some more, glassing the horizon, and thought I located some. I drove to Keokuk Middle School and found large numbers of Chimney Swifts circling a large chimney.

I made the following notes: CHIMNEY SWIFT 200 est. Keokuk Middle School

I don't know whether these birds have been at this location all Fall as I did not find this roost till tonight. Birds seen previously may have just been some of these. Noted the birds, obviously Chimney Swifts because of their uniform dark color, small size, long narrow wings, as well as behaviour, darting about in the early evening, finally swirling around and then dropping into the Middle School Chimney about 6:35 P.M. (Sunset)

I returned the following evening, Oct. 22, and found the birds in much reduced numbers, counting 59 dropping into the chimney. (CONTINUED, ATTACHED SHEET)

## Similar species and how eliminated:

Very late for swallows, which do not roost in Chimneys.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? N.A.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Viewing conditions variable but usually excellent. Distance, from 100 ft to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile or more. Binoculars: 8x Zeiss

Spotting Scope: Nikon/20x eyepiece

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Watched Chimney Swifts since childhood.

Know all Iowa Swallows. Also familiar with bats.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 5 minutes this form completed? 1 dayMAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Description, Page 2.

I returned to the Middle School on the evening of the 23rd of Oct. at 6:15 P.M. and found only two Chimney swifts. I presumed at the time that that would be it, and completed the documentation. That was not it, hence the updating of this page.

Substantiating this record is the fact that Chimney Swifts were late elsewhere this year. Centerville, Iowa reported them on the 17th, and according to the Minnesota Bird Line, they were at the Twin Cities on (I think) the 18th.

Chimney Swift Count Numbers, Keokuk, 1984

<u>Date</u>	<u>Count</u>
Oct. 12	50 est.
Oct. 13	50 est.
Oct. 14	50 est.
Oct. 15	5-10
Oct. 16	50 est.
Oct. 18	20+
Oct. 19	2-3
Oct. 20	15
Oct. 21	200(found roost) est.
Oct. 22	59
Oct. 23	2
Oct. 24	3
Oct. 25	1
Oct. 26	1
Oct. 27	13
Oct. 28	0
Oct. 29	0

Note: Numbers between Oct. 12 and 20 probably represent only a small portion of total numbers at Keokuk.