

*FFL Orenco Team Alpha Research Primer*

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# Swift Habitat Loss



Migration and Chimneys

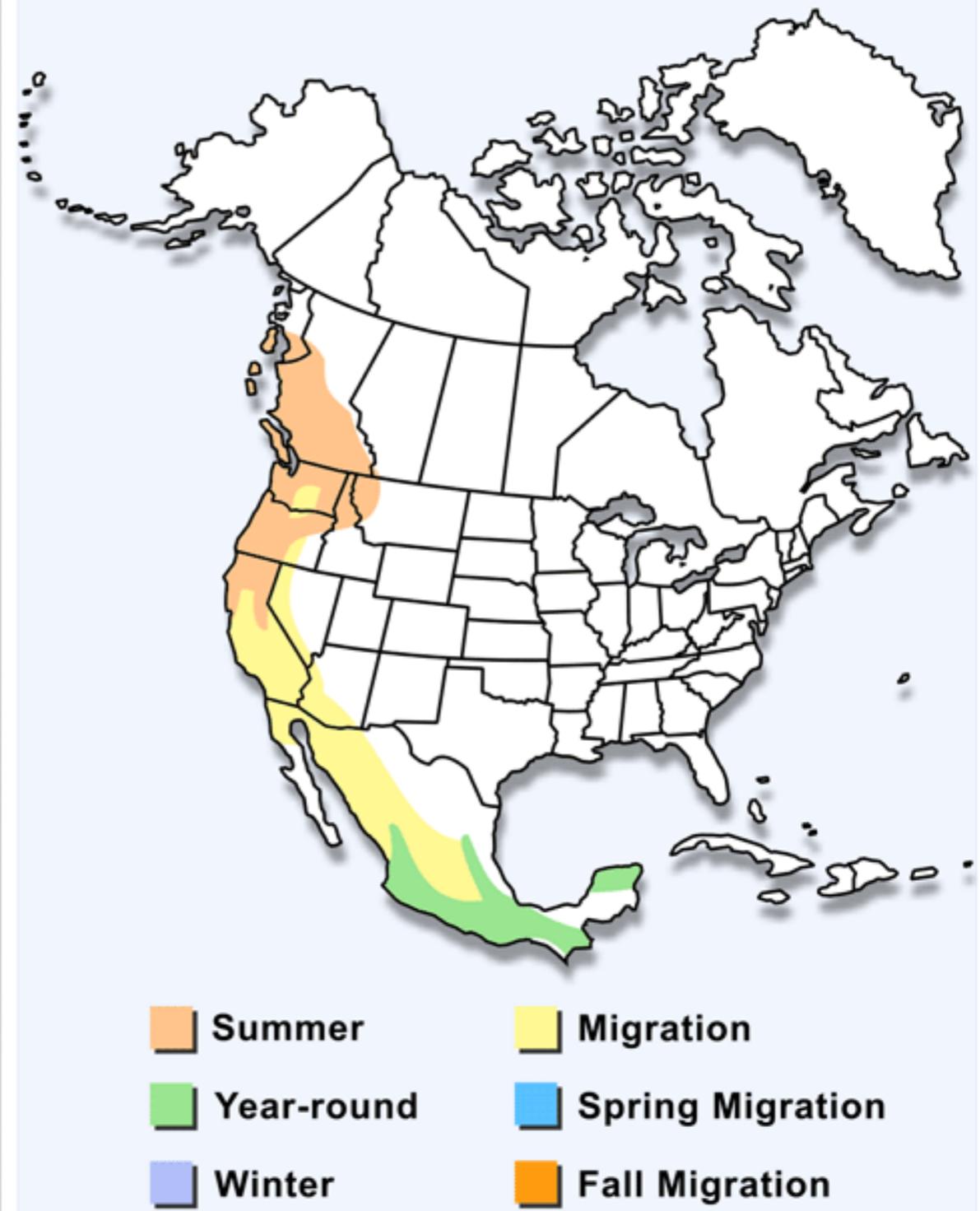
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# Swift Migration

Swifts migrate long distances. Vaux swifts winter in Guatemala then fly 4,000 miles to the Yukon in the summer months to raise their young. That's a lot of flying and Swifts take a rest each night by huddling together. From a swift's point of view chimneys are perfect for this.

## RANGE MAP

### Vaux's Swift





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# Why Chimneys?

Swifts like to cling and take advantage of the structures to keep them dry, warm, and protected from predators.

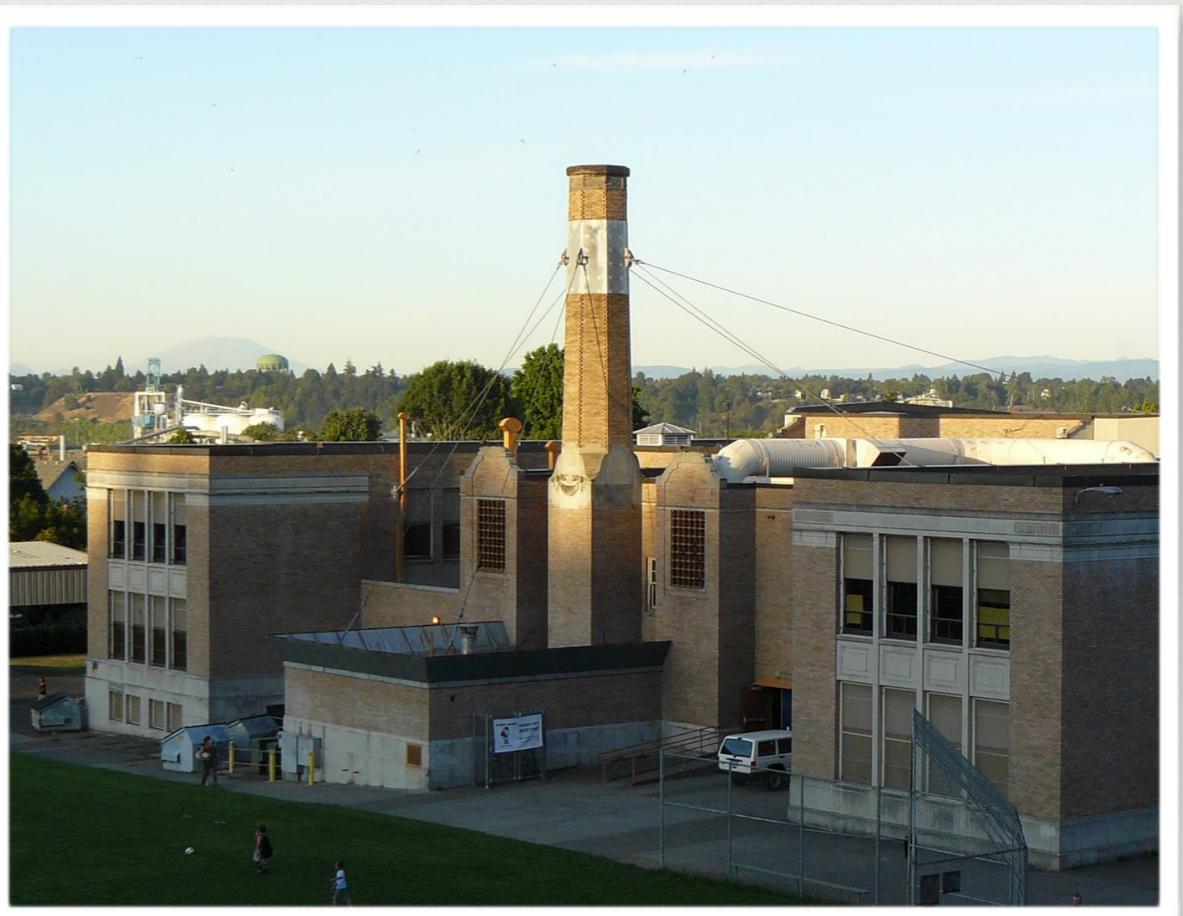
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## Why Chimneys?

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Of course, chimneys are really just a replacement for their preferred natural roosting sites... hollowed out trees. But as man clears forests good trees are harder to find and the clever swifts have adapted to use the manmade structures.





## A Local Attraction

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One particularly large group of swifts have adopted the Chapman Elementary School chimney in NW Portland, OR as a resting point during their Winter migration. Every year between September and early October people flock to see the migrating Vaux swifts.





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## Even More Local

The Vaux swifts used to roost in Hillsboro. The J.B. Thomas Middle School, a former roosting site, was demolished and recycled in 2009.

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# Where do we go from here?

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In the face of natural habitat loss  
and changing human landscape  
what can we do to help?

