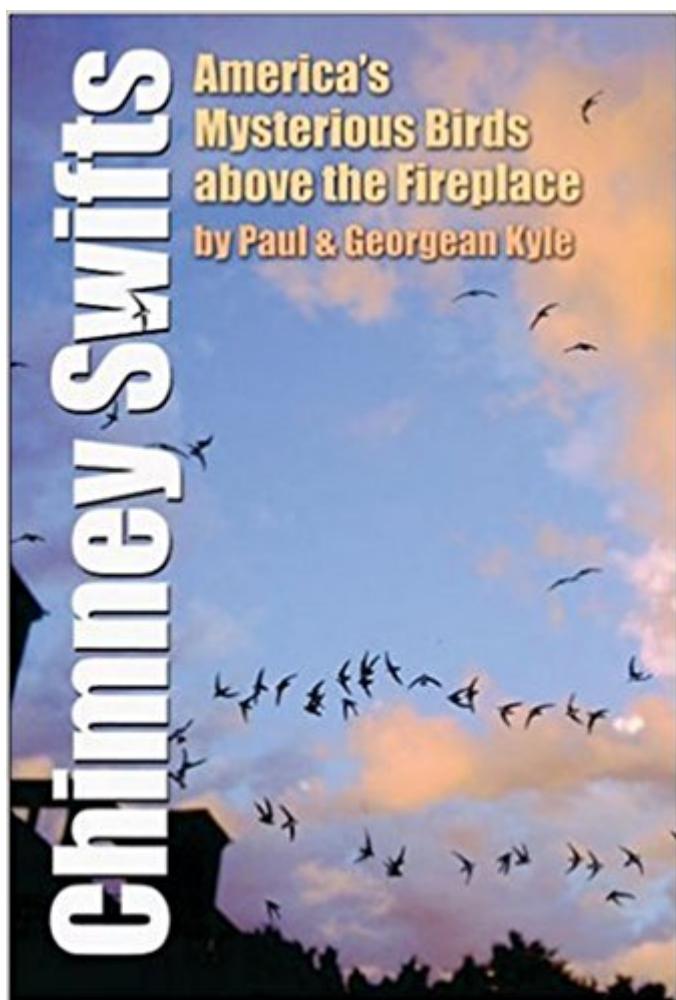


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# Chimney Swifts: America's Mysterious Birds Above The Fireplace (Louise Lindsey Merrick Natural Environment Series)



## **Synopsis**

From the curious sounds of baby swifts chattering in the chimney to the awe-inspiring sight of birds entering their roost at dusk, like smoke swirling back into the flue, Chimney Swifts have captured the imagination of many generations of North Americans. These sleek birds with crescent-shaped wings and acrobatic flight patterns migrate to North America from the River Basin each spring to breed and raise their young. But by the late 1980s, changes in chimney construction and homeowner attitudes had contributed to a major decline in the numbers of Chimney Swifts. Authors Paul and Georganne Kyle have worked ceaselessly in an attempt to alter that trend. The Kyles' eight-acre homestead has become a world-renowned Chimney Swift sanctuary and research station, with more than a dozen Chimney Swift towers of various designs located throughout their property. The swifts return each spring to many of these towers, where they rear their young and where their home life is observed and recorded in previously undocumented detail. In *Chimney Swifts*, the Kyles share the knowledge they have gained, providing readers with an unprecedented peek into the secret life of these beneficial, insect-eating birds. With a non-technical narrative, numerous photos, and original drawings, they explore Chimney Swift natural history and provide practical guidelines for homeowners to coexist peacefully with these remarkable spring and summer guests.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

5 years ago we built our house and the builder (thankfully) forgot to put on a chimney cap. That was

when I discovered chimney swifts and have enjoyed them in our chimney every year. I've been starved for details about these wonderful friends. When I saw that Paul and Georgean Kyle had written a book I \*knew\* this would be the book to get. They were the first people I found on the internet when I started researching chimney swifts. Because they also do chimney swift rehabilitation, they have been up close and personal with chimney swifts for years. They really know their stuff. They track the chimney swift arrivals across the country each spring, and they host the "chimney swift night out" each fall. They are definitely the experts in my mind and this book is terrific. Throughout the book there are amazing close-up photographs and wonderful drawings to accompany the text. The writing is really enjoyable, like talking with a friend. A very fun, easy, and extremely informative read. I had a hard time putting the book down each night. They cover topics like swift social behavior, courting, nesting, nest building, hatchling development, flight/maneuvers, roosting behavior, migration times and destinations, etc. They also include excellent information on habitat and what we can do to help chimney swifts. Their population has been declining since the 80s and we need to help. There's info on building a chimney swift tower and more. This is a wonderful book that will teach you all about the life and times of chimney swifts and give you ideas for helping them survive into the future. Excellent book. I'd buy it again in a heartbeat and I'm so glad they wrote this book. It has given me so much insight and understanding into what's going on in our chimney. As I write this now, it's late April in Virginia and our swifts arrived just two weeks ago. I can hear them chittering in the chimney, no doubt discussing where to put their nest :).

I have chimney swifts that sometimes nest in my 18th century house's chimneys. This book is filled with fascinating information about and remarkable photos of these amazing birds and is a fine resource for anyone interested in them. The authors' dedication is most impressive.

Excellent information provided by knowledgeable researchers and conservationists.

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