

BAPL hosts first forum on our S.O.S project tomorrow night

[The Bethlehem Gadfly](#) [Environment](#), [Swifts](#) February 16, 2021

🦉 Latest in a series of posts on the Swifts 🦉

“S.O.S. Save Our Swifts by Saving their Urban Habitat: Telling the Story of the Chimney Swifts and their Connection to Our City”



GoFundMe

The Swifts are now the official City Bird of Bethlehem!

Join us at the Bethlehem Area Public Library (virtually) for the first in a 3-part series of presentations in partnership with Lehigh Valley Audubon Society and the South Side Initiative entitled *S.O.S. Save Our Swifts by Saving their Urban Habitat: Telling the Story of the Chimney Swifts and their Connection to Our City*. This series is supported by the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium (LVEHC) Mellon Grant for Public Forums.

Each session will stream live on [BAPL's YouTube channel](#).

Register for this first session using the forum title link below.

**Forum #1 Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 7:00-8:30 PM
Chimney Swifts and their Adaptation to Urban Habitats**

Scott Burnet, Lehigh Valley Audubon Society (LVAAS) Chairman of the Habitat Committee

Peter Saenger, LVAAS President, Ornithologist at Muhlenberg College
Acopian Center for Ornithology

Jennie Gilrain (moderator), LVAS Member and Bethlehem Area School District Teacher

Peter Saenger and Scott Burnet will educate the public about these unusual birds. Swifts originally roosted in hollow trees of old growth forests, but since the Industrial Revolution, have adapted to live in chimneys in urban environments. Approximately 2,200 birds were counted entering the Masonic Temple chimney in South Bethlehem in August 2020. Scott Burnet estimates that tens of thousands of chimney swifts use this roost yearly. Since the Masonic Temple was built in 1925 (95 years ago), it is reasonable to assume that up to 95 generations of swifts have called this chimney home. Peter Saenger and Scott Burnet will tell the story of how these aerial acrobats have cohabitated with the people in multiple roosts in Bethlehem since the Industrial Revolution.

[“S.O.S. Save Our Swifts by Saving their Urban Habitat: Telling the Story of the Chimney Swifts and their Connection to Our City”](#)



[GoFundMe](#)

The Bethlehem Gadfly