

*April, 2018      Tel Aviv*

*Vaux's  
Happening*

*A presentation by Diane Y-Q      Audubon's Vaux's Happening*

Vaux's  
Happening  
Project  
Coordinator  
L. Schwitters in  
Nome.  
Same time zone  
as home.



# The four species of swifts found in North America

Painting by Ed Newbold



Vaux's    Black    White-throated    Chimney



2013 PIF North American total population estimate

White-throated - 800,000

Black - 70,000

Chimney - 7,800,000

Vaux's - 340,000

Vaux's Happening estimates 250,000





Charles Bergman





# Bonk



Got to watch where you're going in Los Angeles





PAWS  
photo  
C. Young  
photoshop





Brad Benson  
photo



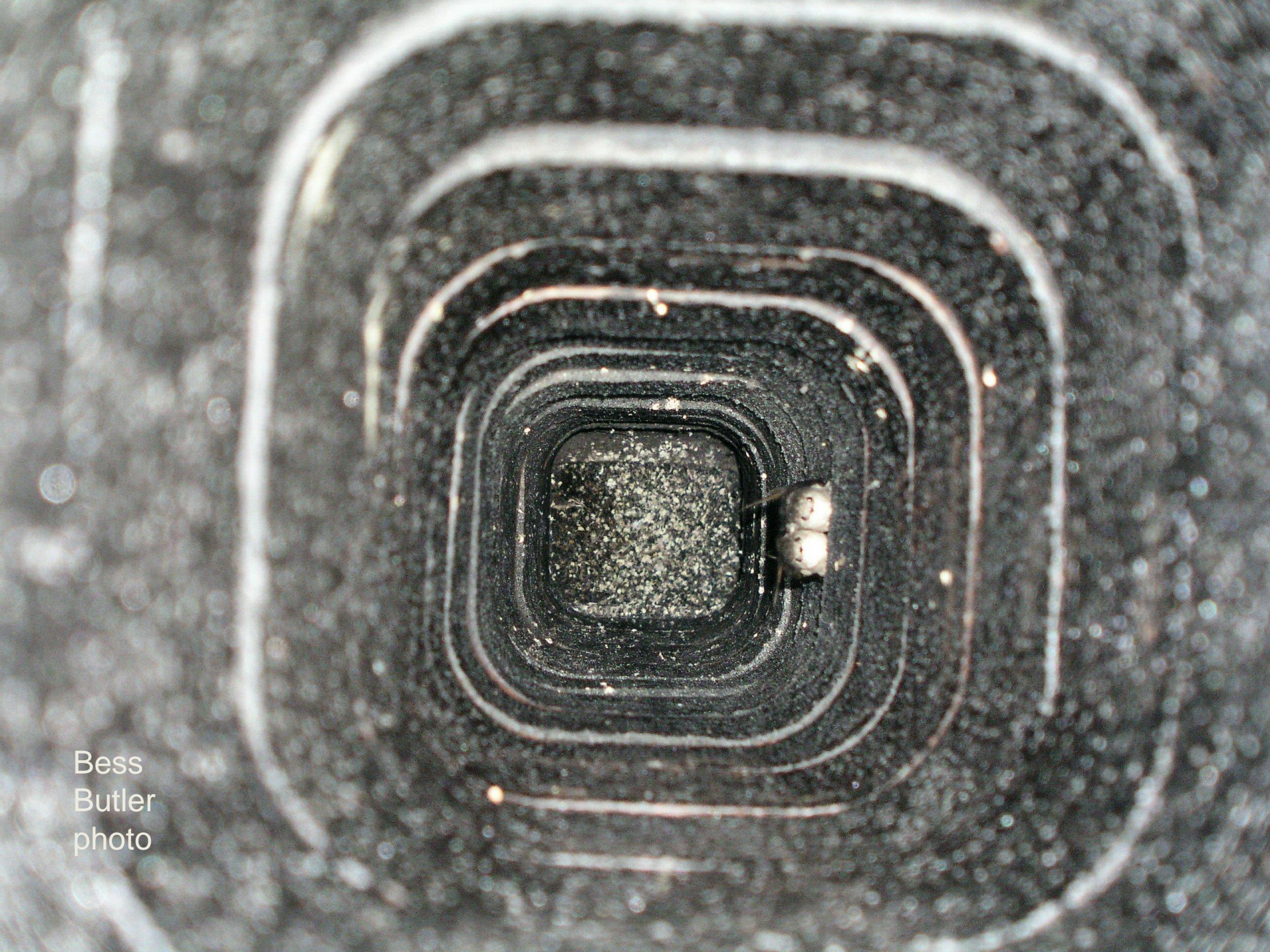
# Monroe Wagner mid-afternoon 8/28/2013 1000? Vaux's Swifts



They  
stopped  
making them  
that way in  
the 1940s

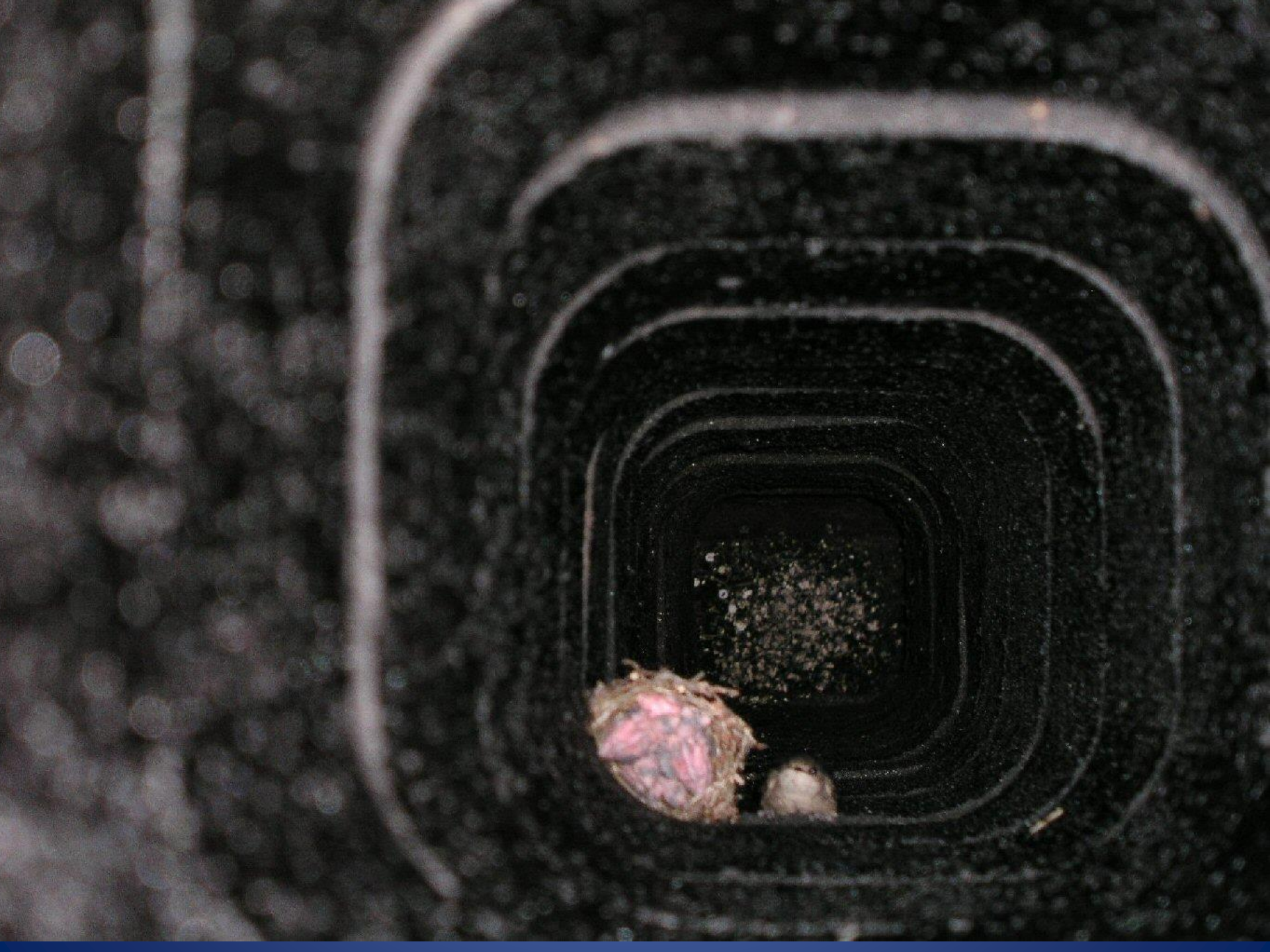




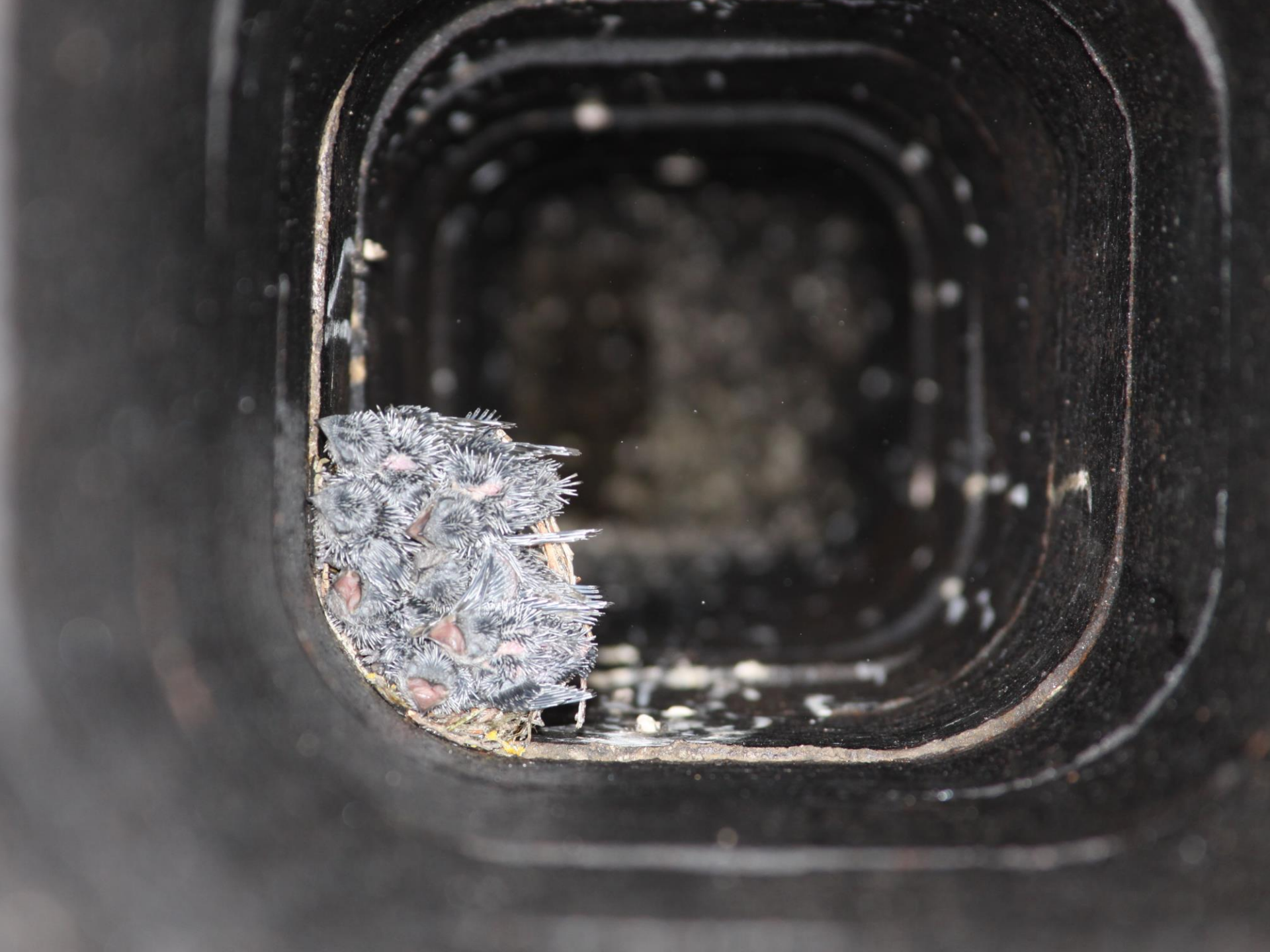


Bess  
Butler  
photo









*Vaux's Happenings*

*beginnings*

In 2007 only two large number roost sites were well known in WA.

- The Sumas Old Customs House on the Canadian border
- Monroe Wagner Elementary School near Seattle







OCT 2007, Audubon hears that MSD has plans to remove the Wagner Elementary roost site chimney.

- Audubon objects.



The School District says

The chimney is no longer  
used by the birds.

our task is to



Document that it is used, in both migrations.

Demonstrate that the Monroe site is a  
significant shelter for migrating Vaux's  
Swifts. Tell the world.

They also claim that

A seismic retrofit will cost \$250,000-\$500,000. \$\$\$\$



We need to  
have counters at  
as many roost  
sites in the state  
as we can  
locate.



- Nov. 15, 07 First tweeters (a birding list serve) post seeking Washington State roost locations.
- Feb 1, 08 We knew of 28 historic roost sites. Half came from WA Fish & Wild.



We had the school Principal on our side. She said she would tell us if any swifts showed up.





11 AM, 4/16/08-The call comes in.  
Monroe Wagner has 250 feathered guests.  
We were ecstatic!





# Selleck Old School House



L. Schwitters photo



- At the end of the 2008 northbound migration

Selleck - 32,000 roosting events

8,000 one night high count

Monroe Wagner - 130,000....77%  
of the state total.

21,000 one night high count



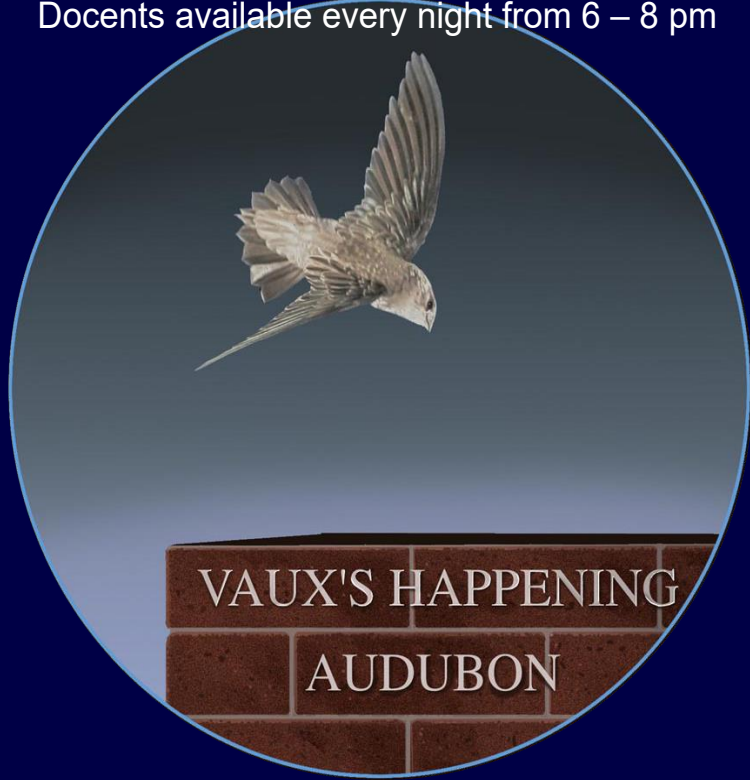
*Tell the World*



# Monroe Swift Watch

September 6 – 21, 2008

Docents available every night from 6 – 8 pm



## Swift Night Out

September 6, 2008

Celebrate return of the Vaux's Swifts as 100's zoom into the school chimney to roost.  
Frank Wagner Elementary School 639 W. Main St., Monroe, WA

- ★ 6:30 pm – Lecture Frank Wagner Auditorium
- ★ Swift viewing on the lawn: bring blanket & chairs
- ★ Fun stuff for Kids
- ★ Educational booths: Audubon & PAWS
- ★ Snacks & drinks
- ★ Docents to answer questions

Information: [www.PilchuckAudubon.org](http://www.PilchuckAudubon.org) - Pilchuck Audubon Society (425) 252-0926

Artwork courtesy of Larry Schwitters

Monroe's  
Return of the  
Swifts  
Community  
Celebration  
Would the  
people show?

Would the  
swifts?

Would the people show?

700-1000



Would the birds show?





A large flock of birds, possibly terns, is captured in flight against a clear, light blue sky. The birds are seen from below, showing their dark silhouettes and white underparts. They are scattered across the frame, with a higher concentration around a dark, rectangular structure in the lower foreground. The structure appears to be a roof or a wall, and its dark color contrasts sharply with the bright sky and the white undersides of the birds. The overall scene conveys a sense of a massive, coordinated avian gathering.

**14,000**

**The Seattle Times**

**Hundreds flock to  
Monroe to watch  
migrating birds.**

- **By Linda Mapes**



A seismic retrofit will cost  
\$250,000-\$500,000.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

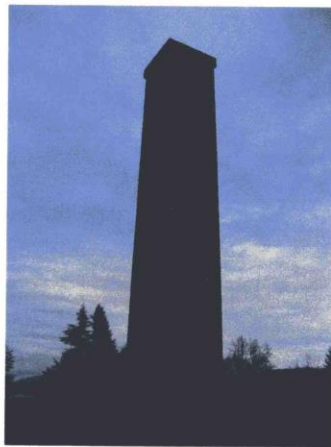
We need to find some money \$\$\$\$\$





# **CHIMNEY SESIMIC RETROFIT**

**FRANK WAGNER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
MONROE, WA**



MARCH, 2009

PREPARED FOR:

**PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY**

BY:

**CHUDGAR ENGINEERING COMPANY**

16230 NE 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET BELLEVUE WA 98008 PHONE (425) 881-8979

Audubon secured  
\$100,000 from the  
state for school  
safety and got the  
job done for that  
amount.

Bring on  
the big one.





















It's almost late August, 2010 and  
there's no bird action.

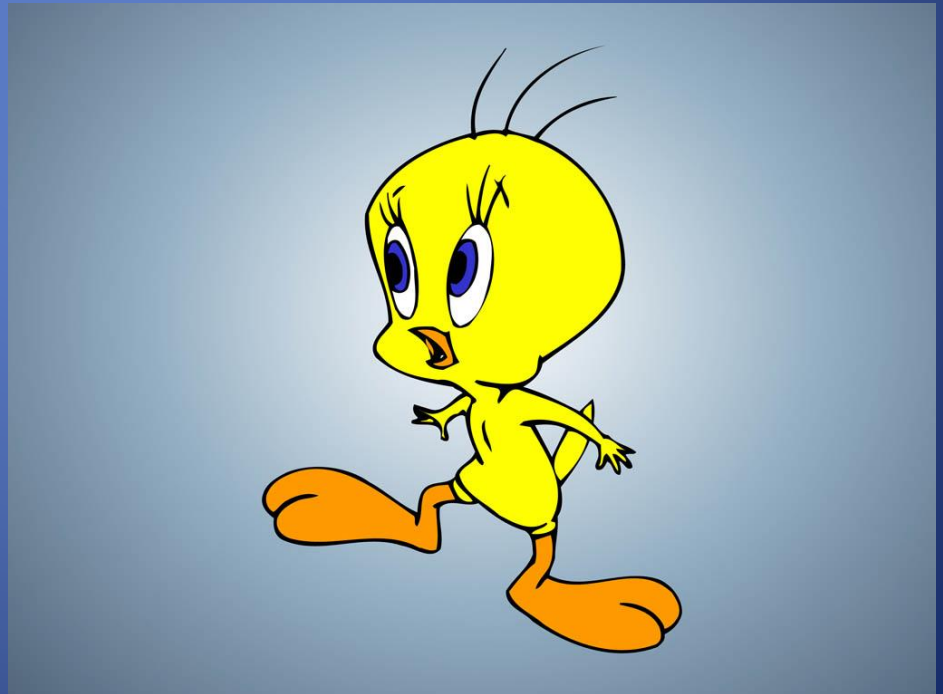


YOU'VE  
SCARED  
AWAY  
THE  
SWIFTS!



Not  
a  
problem

With the camera watching the roost site 24/7 we discovered something unexpected and disturbing that was happening in the mornings.













# Old Northern State Hospital

L. Schwitters photo







JBLM





# Portland, OR Chapman School



# Agate Hall at the U of Oregon in Eugene





# RIO LINDO ACADEMY North Central California



# Rusty Scaff at McNear Brick Plant    San Francisco    an Elaine photo





# Los Angeles



# San Diego





### Washington State

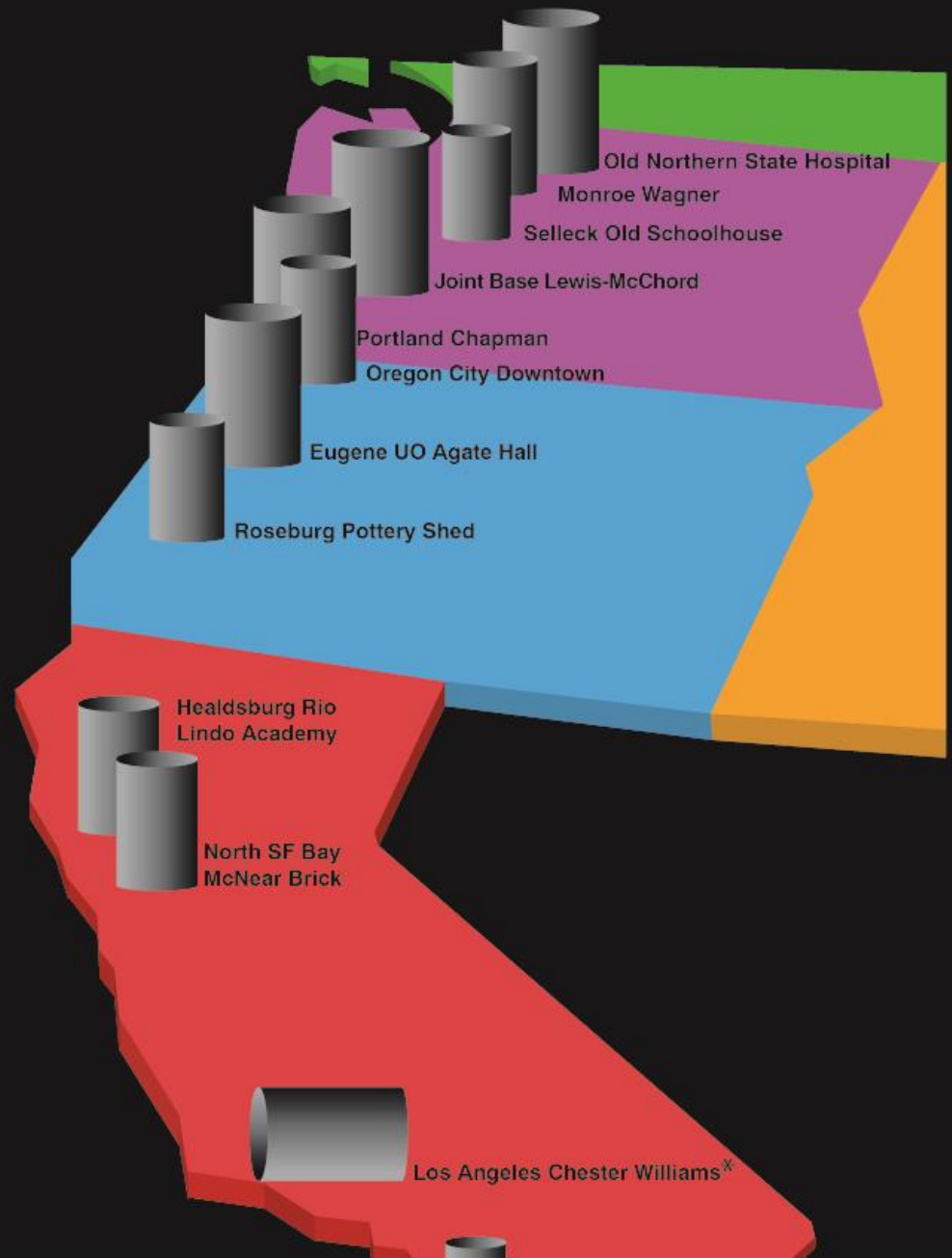
	Northbound	Southbound
Old Northern State Hospital	8,191	20,965
Monroe Wagner	21,027	26,552
Selleck Old Schoolhouse	8,251	17,591
Joint Base Lewis-McChord	8,440	15,320

### Oregon State

	Northbound	Southbound
Portland Chapman	10,000	21,000
Oregon City Downtown	5,774	7,005
Eugene UO Agate Hall	7,800	12,000
Roseburg Pottery Shed	1,720	6,370

### California State

	Northbound	Southbound
Healdsburg Rio Lindo Academy	500	23,000
North SF Bay McNear Brick	480	25,190
Los Angeles Chester Williams*	10,000	13,200



This is my roost site, located on a large army base.



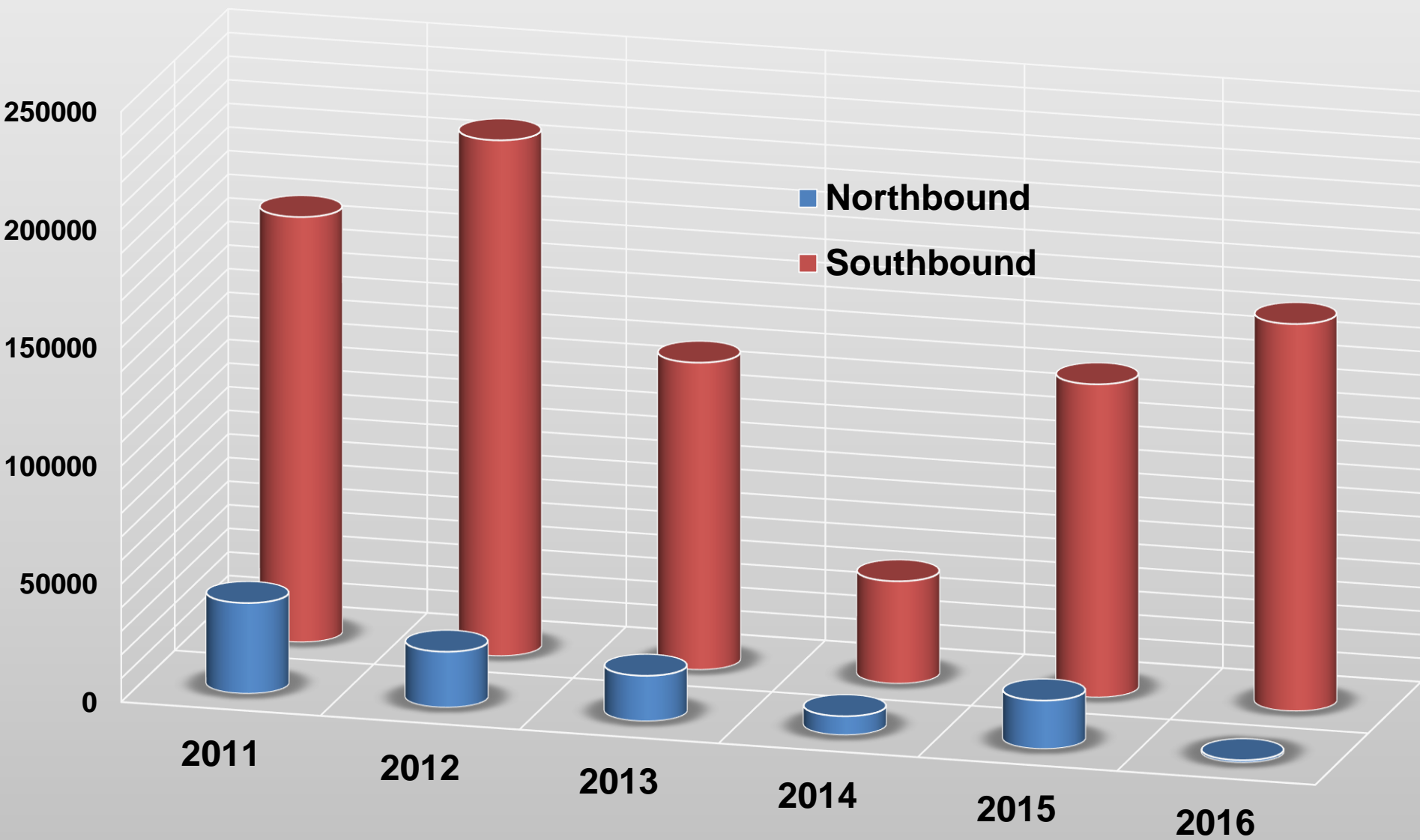


The military has embraced it and it's recognized as a Birdlife International Important Bird Area of Global significance.



# JBLM 2068 total swifts both migrations 2011-2016

swifts





*Swifts have a temperature  
regulation problem.*

If any of you know what it is about swift plumage that makes them good at getting rid of body heat but not conserving it, please let us know.

Share body warmth.





# Huddle up.

Vaux's Happening

[Archives](#) [Live Stream](#)

Data rate

Buffer

Vaux's Happening

WildEarth



03:19:32

2 viewers



# *The physics of bricks*

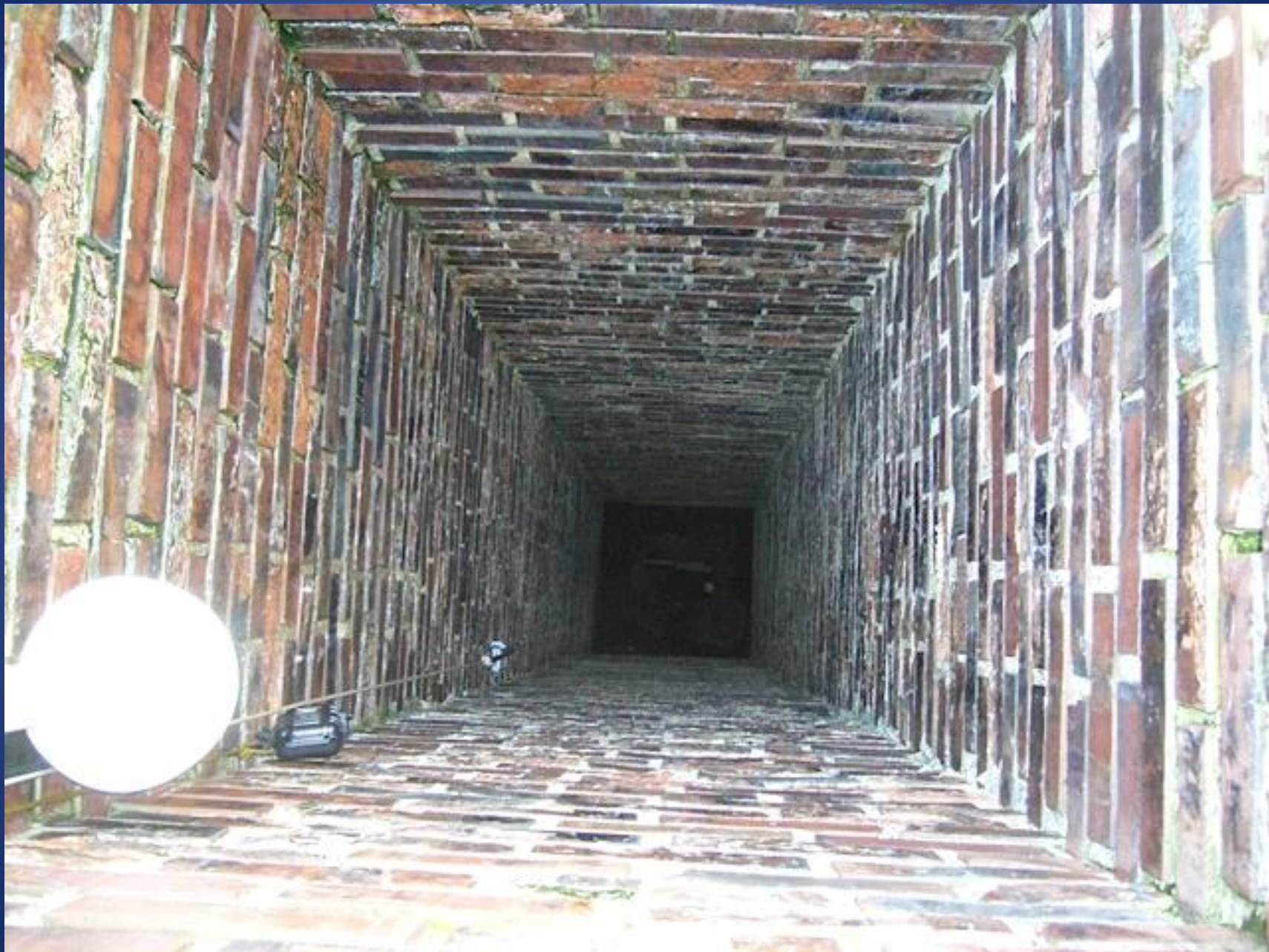


Bricks  
absorb,  
hold,  
and  
then  
slowly  
release  
heat.

How Much?



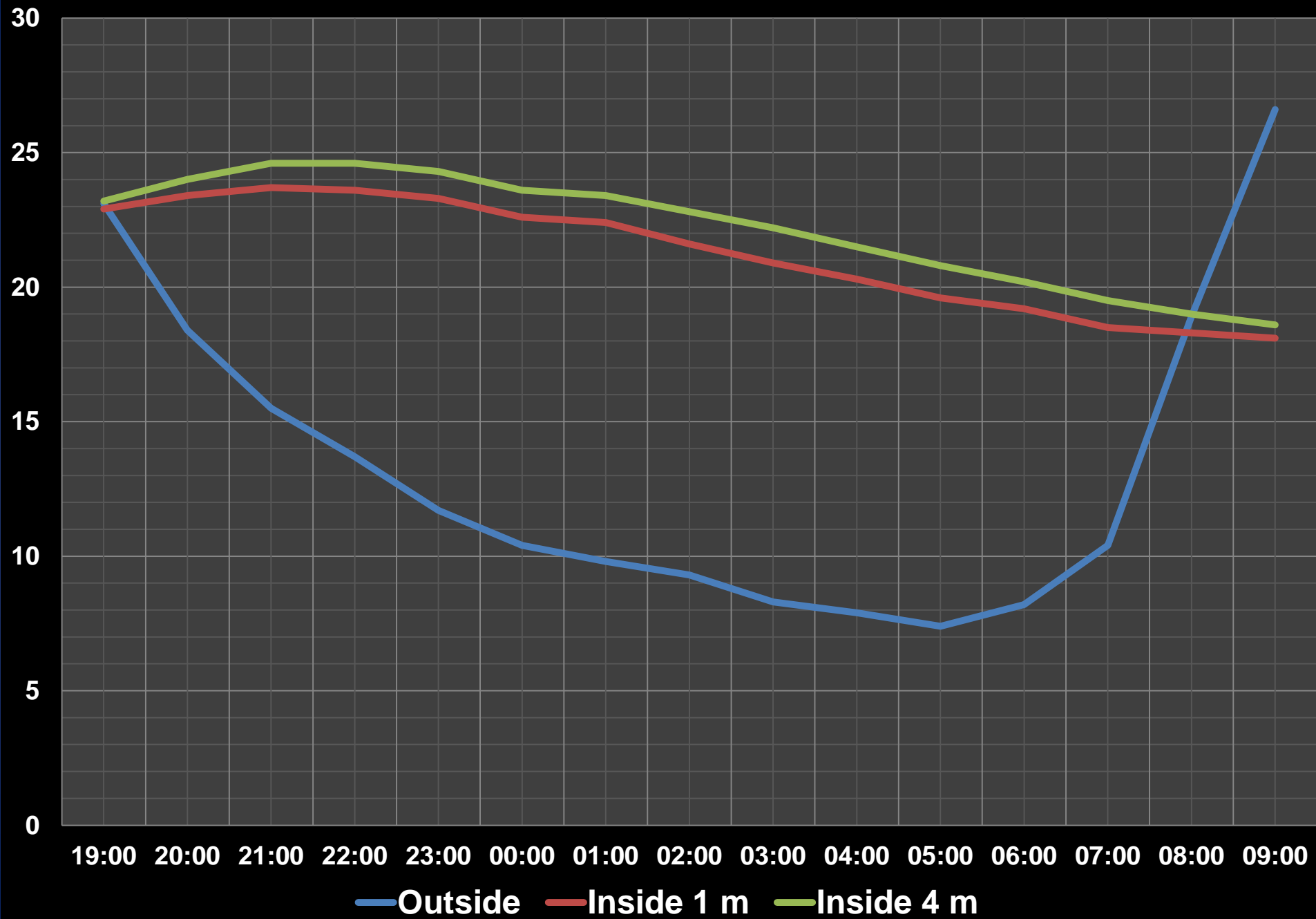






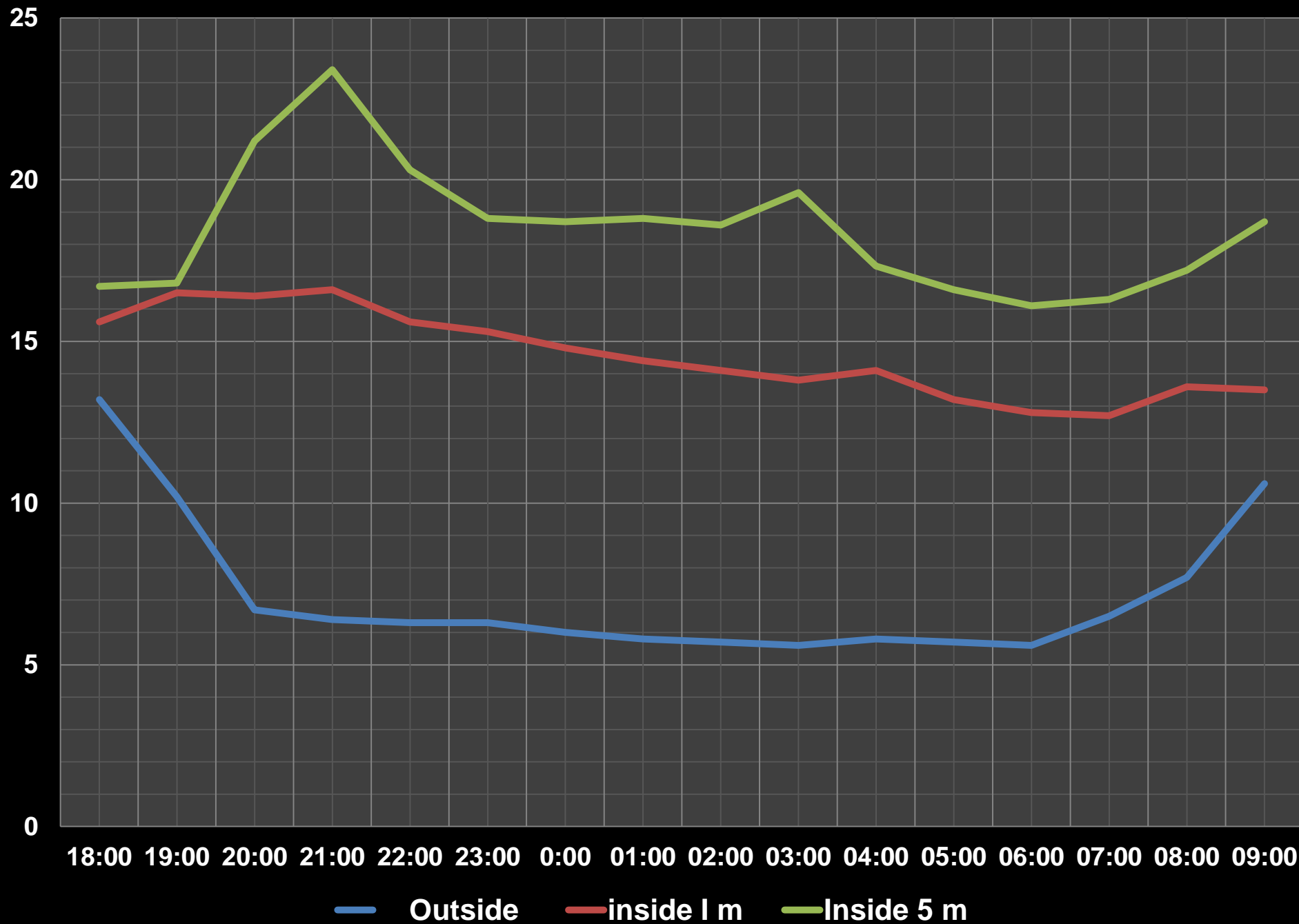
Degrees C

# Monroe Wagner 5/7/12 100 swifts



Degrees C

Monroe Wagner 5/1/12 3500 swifts-rain

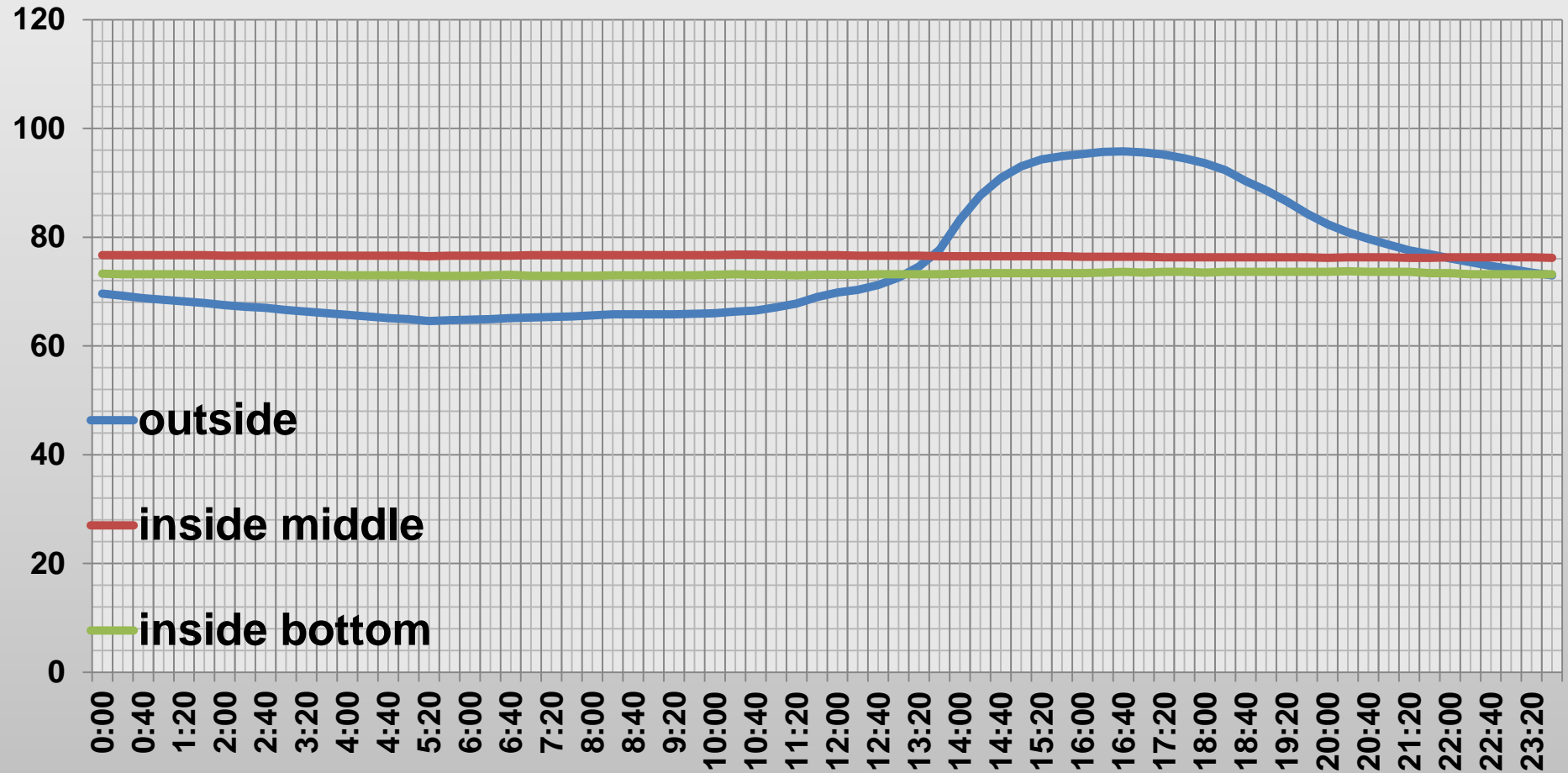






North America's most famous swift roost is the Chapman School in Portland. It's 25 meters tall and its walls are 5 bricks thick. We got a temperature logger half way up the inside by connecting 2 meter sections of pipe together one at a time. All those bricks store a lot of heat.

# Portland Chapman Temperatures 9/1/2014

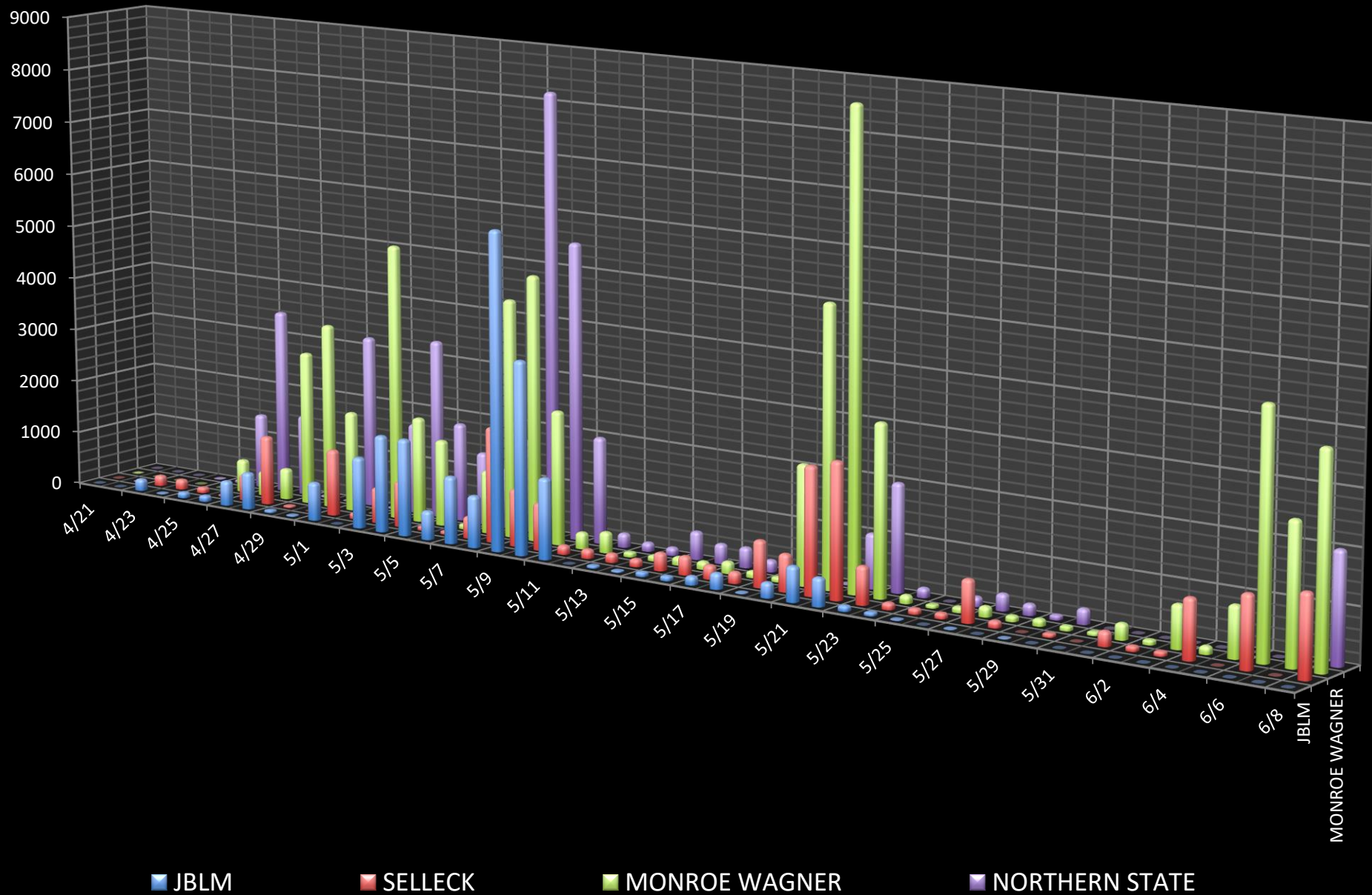






Could there be some  
warm nights when it was so hot  
inside the roost site that the  
swifts would avoid the  
chimneys?

# WA STATE FOUR LARGEST VAUX'S SWIFT ROOST SITES NORTHBOUND 2012





All they need is  
bark.

Beeville, Texas  
April 26, 2013  
Jason Collins







- Jason Collins Editor  
Beeville Bee Newspaper







They don't  
even need a  
tree.

Gwen Higerd photo

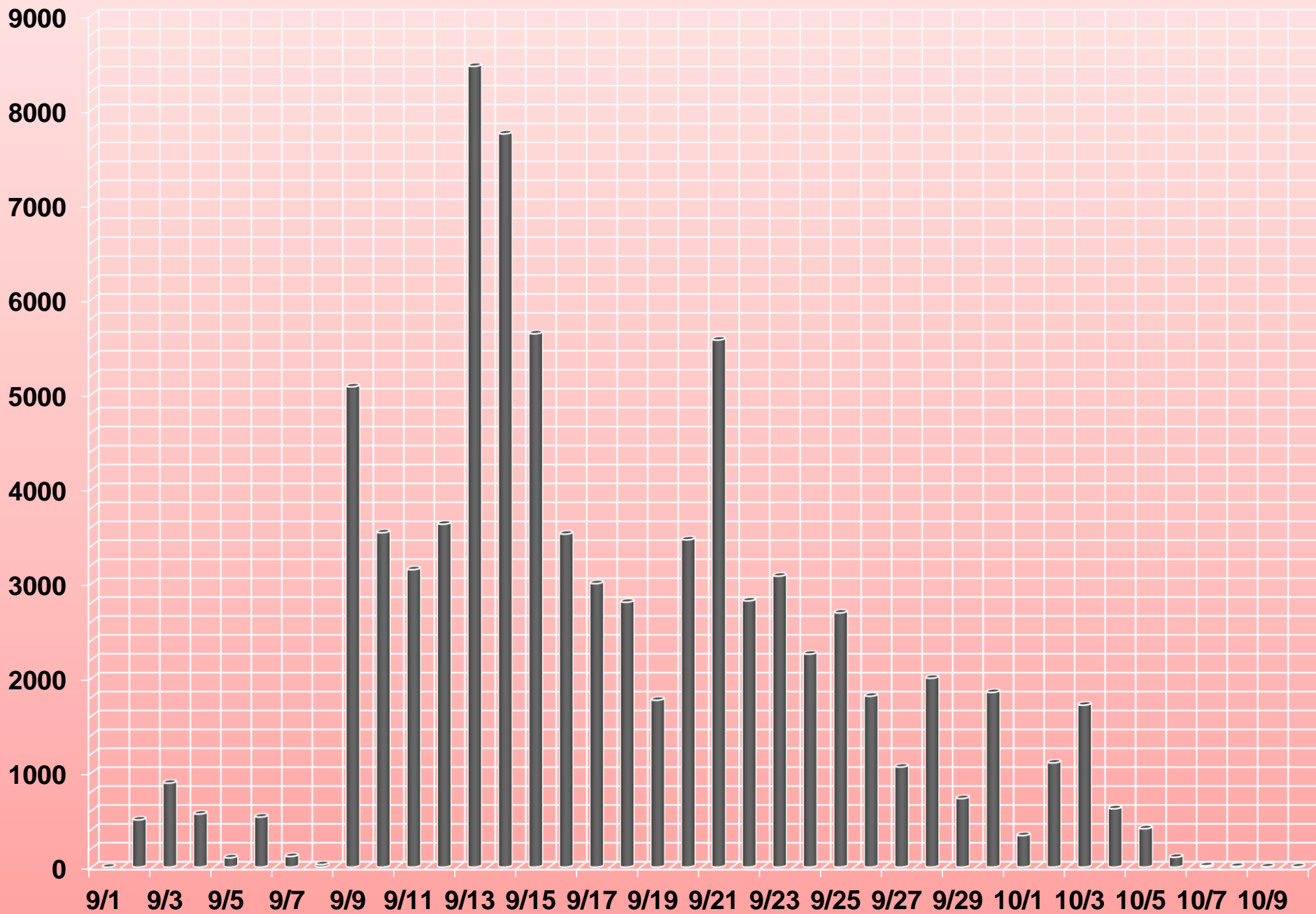




Are all  
migrations  
about the  
same?

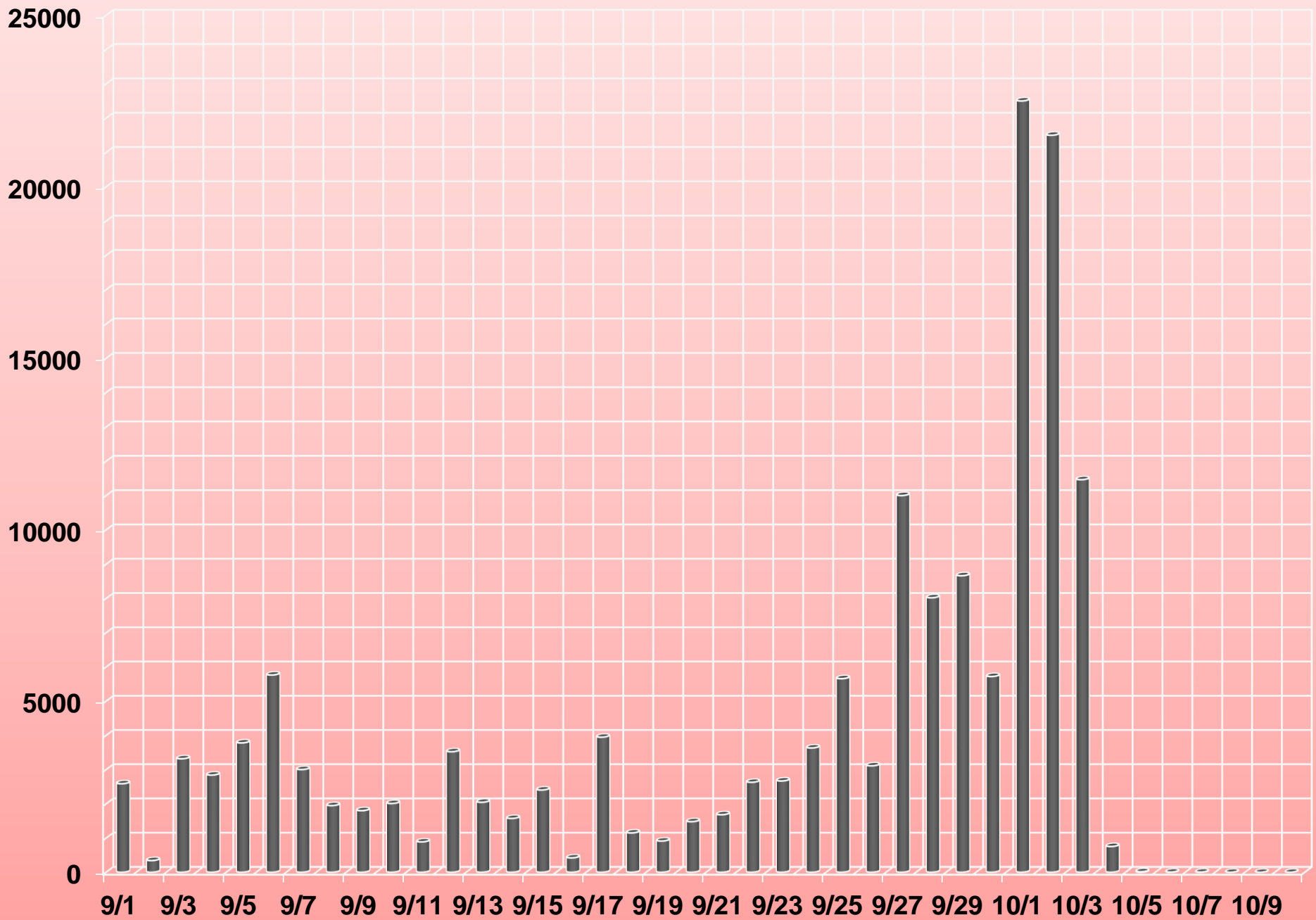


# MONROE WAGNER SOUTHBOUND 2012





# MONROE WAGNER SOUTHBOUND 2013



Do the swifts  
torpor on a  
cool night?





9/27/2013-3000 swifts at 03:00 It's hard to torpor with all that noise.



- 48.2 degrees f/9 degrees C outside temperature

9/12/2012 The Wagner roost at 20:00. 5000  
Vaux's Swifts enter and pile up at the top. 60.6/15.9

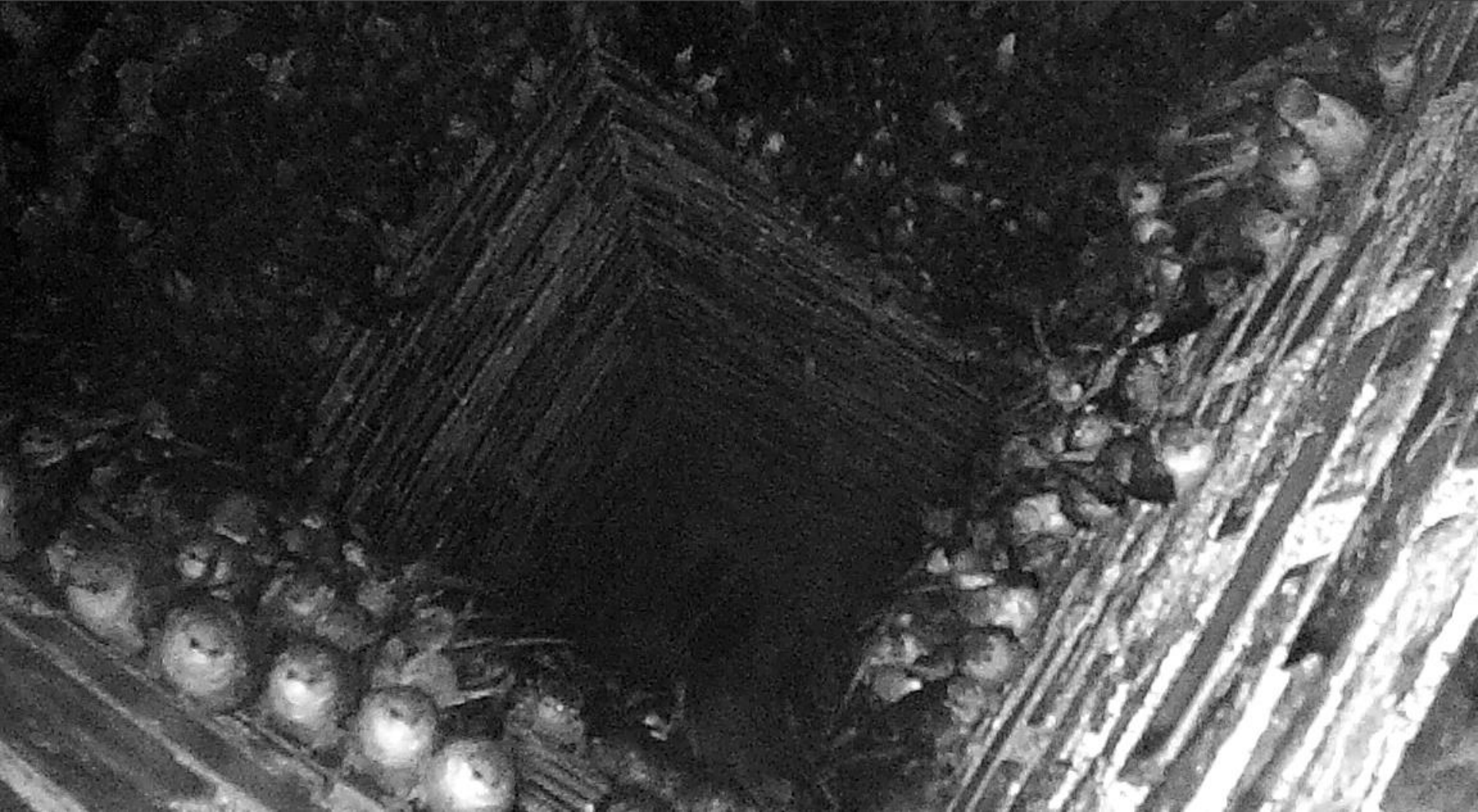




21:00 The birds are making a lot of noise and slowly moving lower. 57.5/14.2

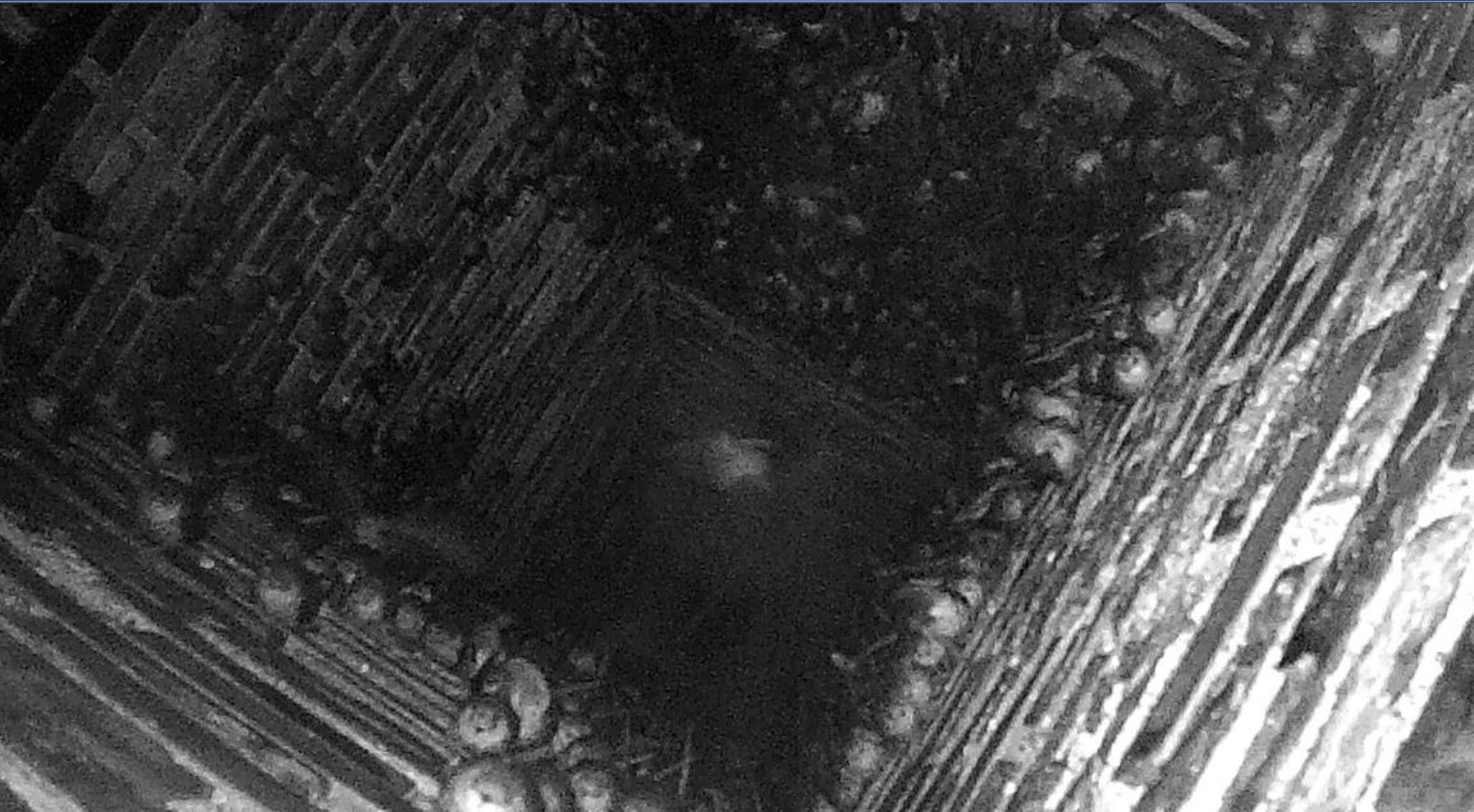


22:00 Another hour of more of the  
same. 54.5/12.5

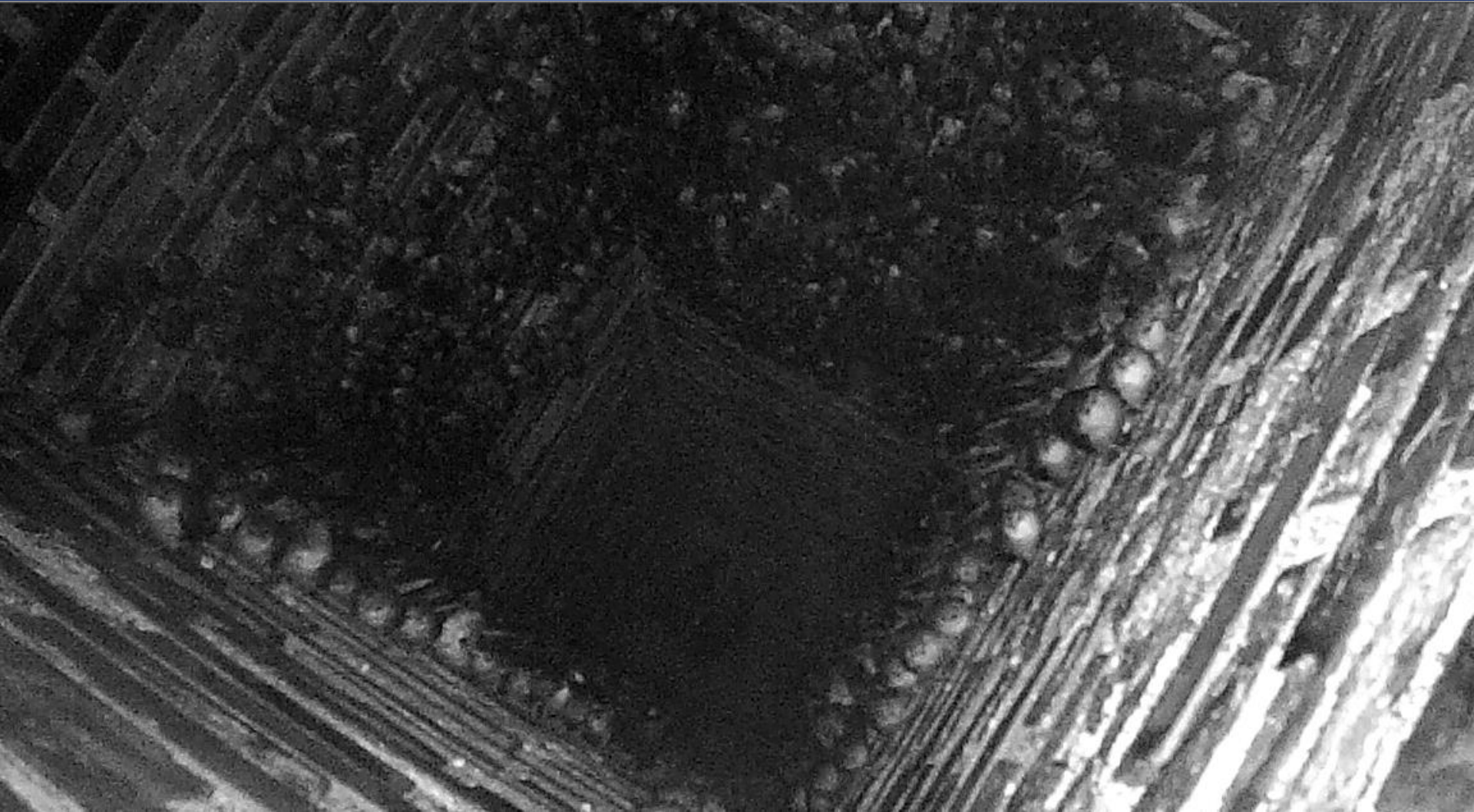




23:00 Most abandon the north wall  
and move lower. 51.7/10.9



00:00 49.6/9.8





01:00 Now they are back on the north wall. How low will they go? 47.9/8.8



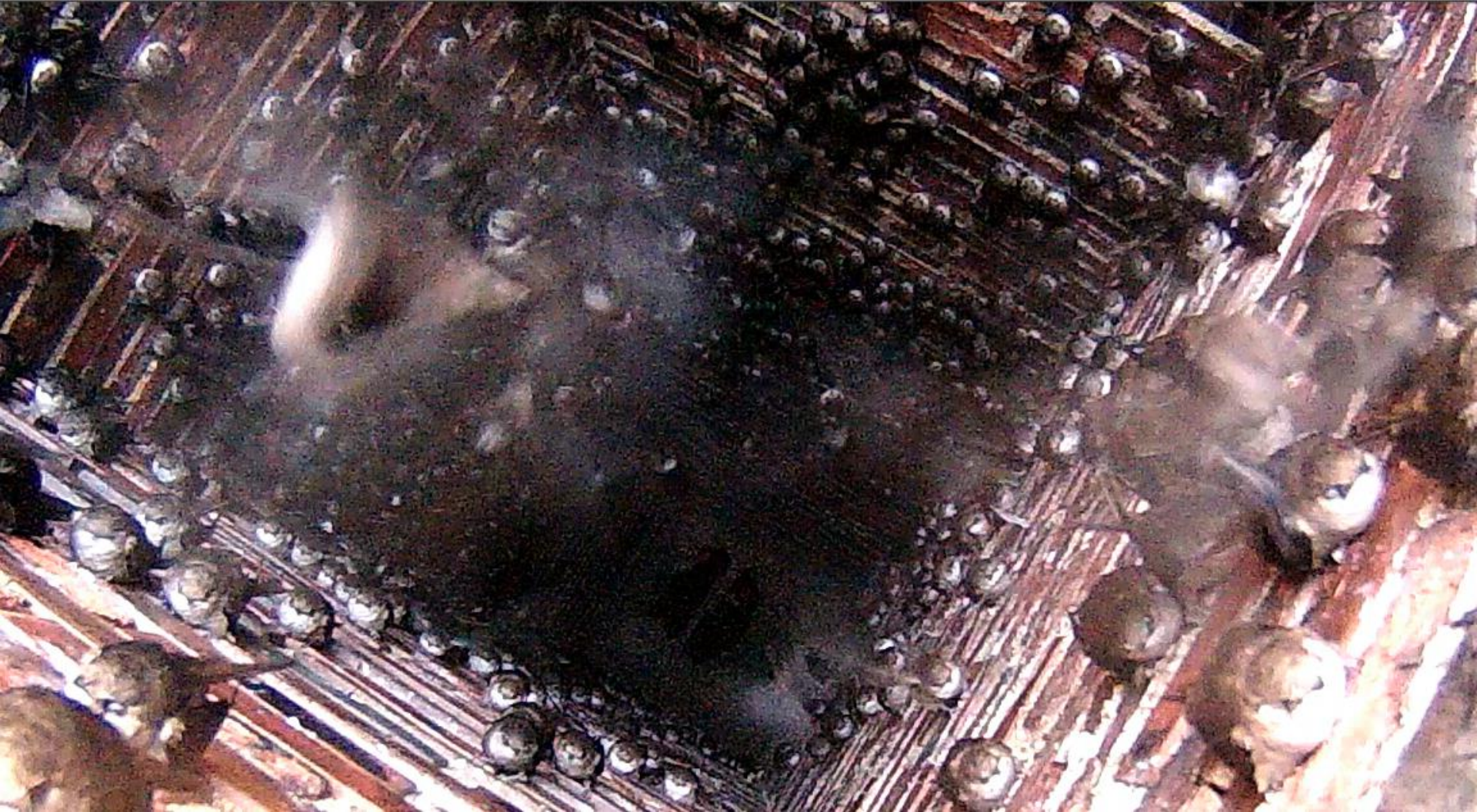


08:00 None have left. 43.3/6.3





09:00 Exit is well under way. 44.9/7.2





10:00 A hundred stay behind. 51.0/10.6





11:30 All gone. Someone needs to  
clean the bathroom. 60.4/15.8





Detroit  
Farmington  
Junction  
Swift Sanctuary

50,000 plus  
in one evening





Must find  
someone  
dumb enough  
to climb up it.



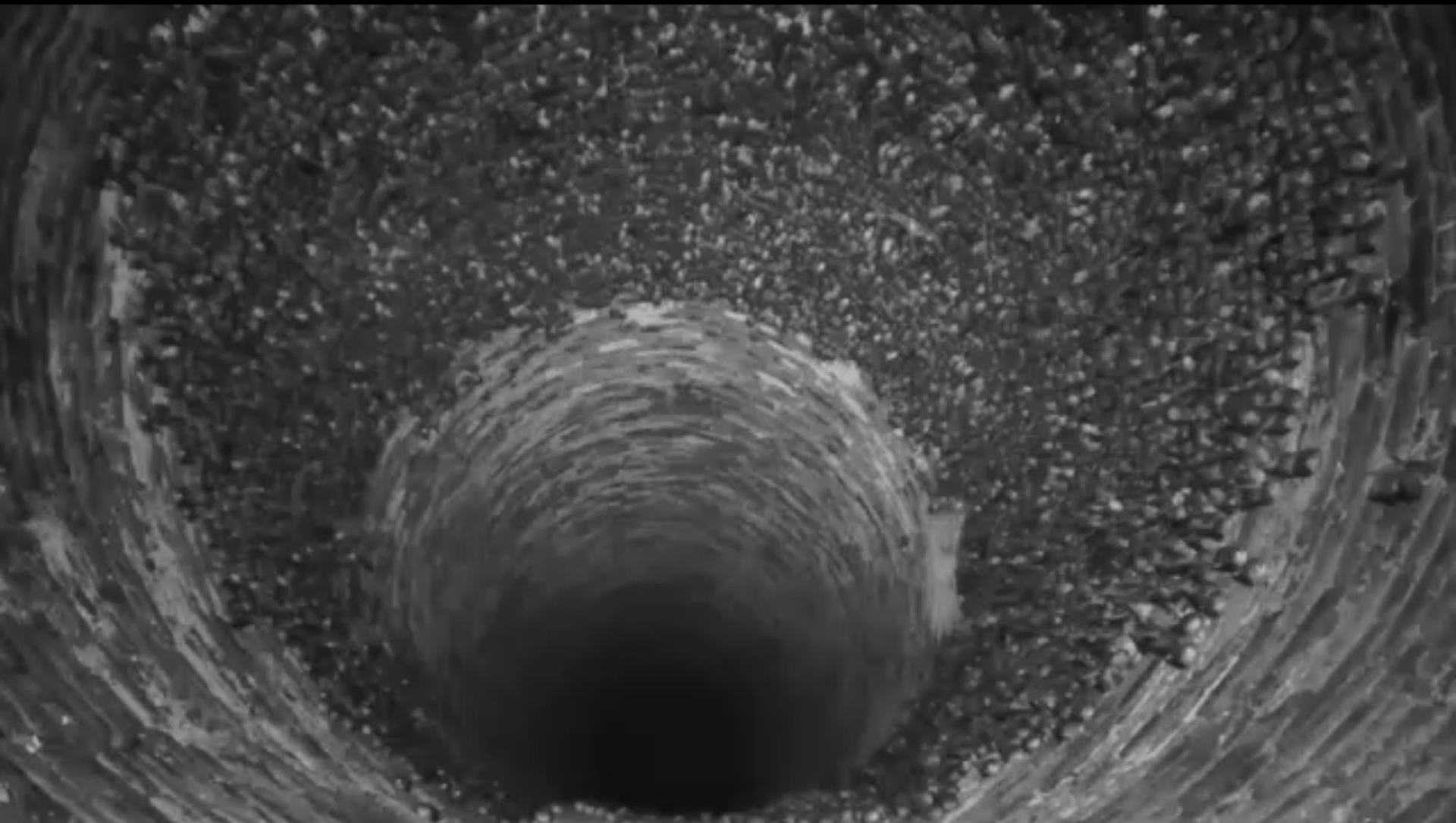




Long way down.



Camera also has infra-red.





All the major roost sites are old and crumbly. Where will the wee birds go when they all fall down?



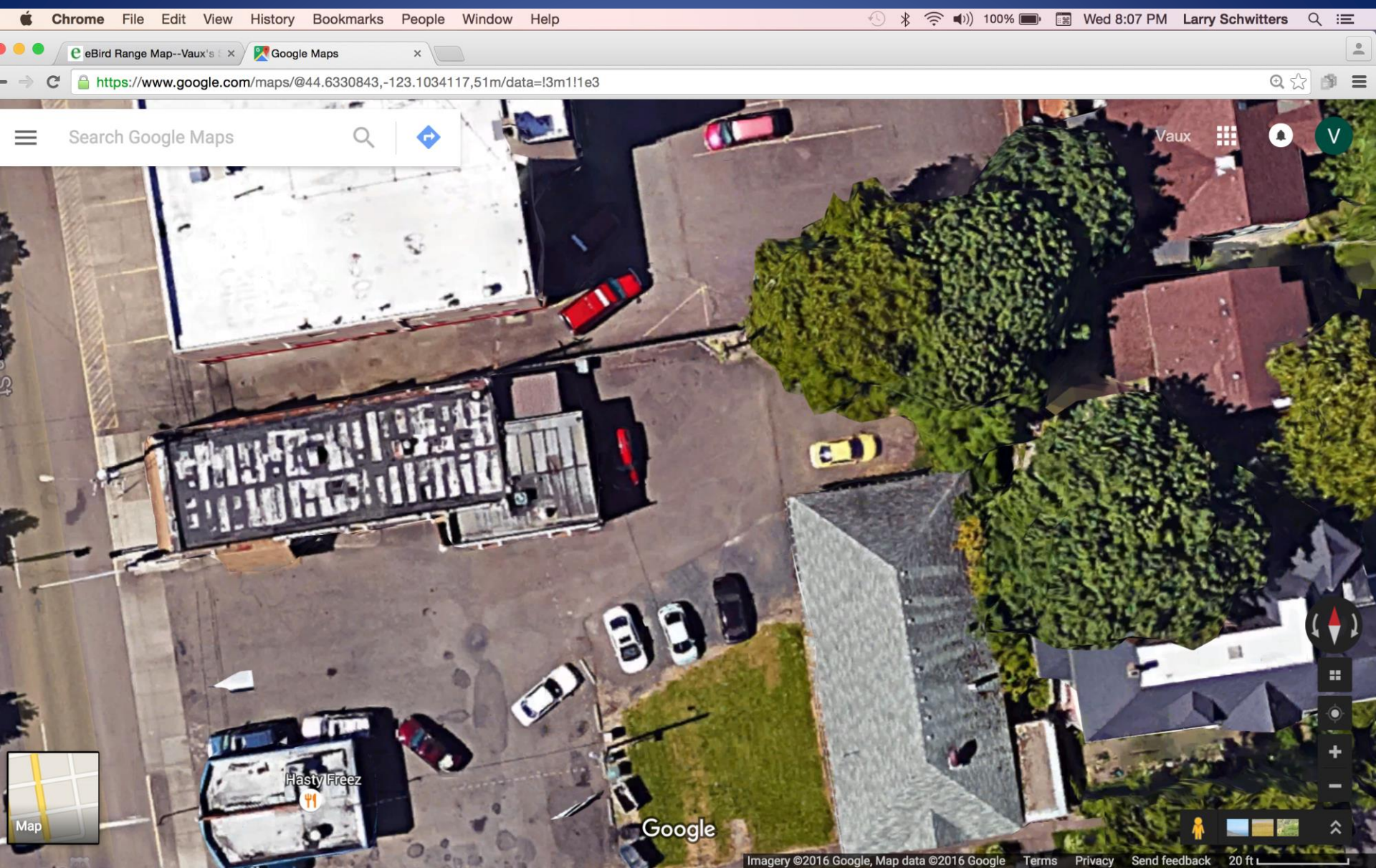
Can we construct a cheap and  
quick replacement  
roost site?



A project partnering

City of Albany-Corvallis Audubon-Vaux's Happening

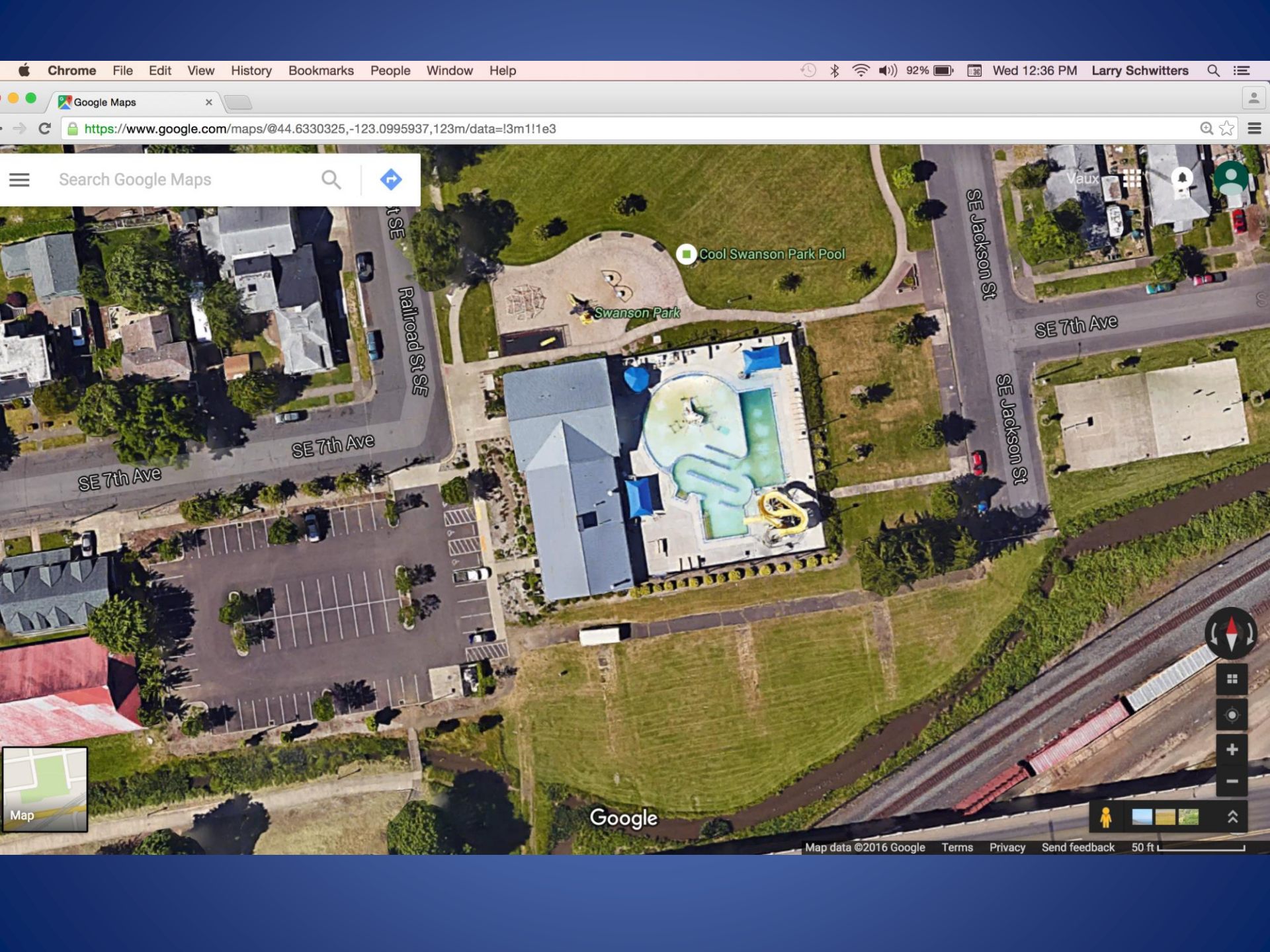




- Fire station One

Albany, Oregon





Search Google Maps



Cool Swanson Park Pool

Swanson Park

SE 7th Ave

SE 7th Ave

Railroad St SE

SE Jackson St

SE Jackson St

SE 7th Ave

Google

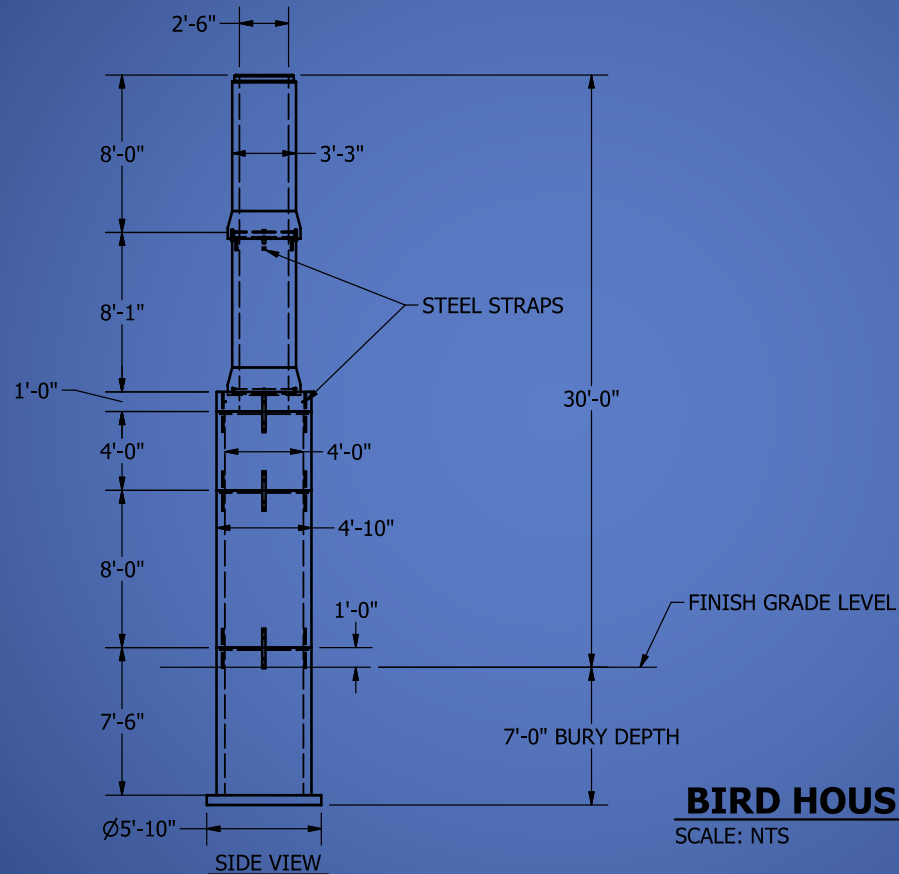



NOTES:

1. EACH JOINT TO HAVE 3 GALVANIZED STEEL STRAPS
2. BASE TO BE BURIED 7' INTO COMPACTED CRUSHED ROCK AND HAVE 6" EXTENDED BASE.
3. OPTIONAL LEDGE, INSERT OR KNOCK OUT PER CUSTOMER REQUEST.

PIECE COUNT:

- 02) 30" x 8' B&S PIPE (4,350 lbs EACH)
- 01) 48" x 8" FLAT TOP w/ 30" center hole (1,500 lbs)
- 01) 48" x 4' SECTION (3,480 lbs)
- 01) 48" x 8' SECTION (6,950 lbs)
- 01) 48" x 8' EXTENDED BASE (8,500 lbs)



	PROJECT: ALBANY BIRD HOUSE				B01
	CONTRACTOR: N/A				
	△ XXXX	XXXXXXXX	DRAWN	EDH	
	△			10/30/15	
	△				
	△				

# It begins with a double grave hole



















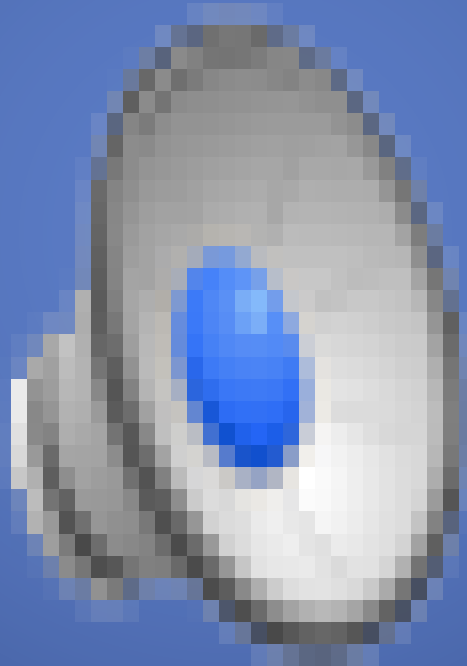




The end of a very  
long day.

Come find  
it wee  
birds!

The swifts migrated unusually late in 2012 and were caught in a cold and wet October. The Wagner roost we had saved for them sheltered 22,000 of the wee birds, 3 deep top to bottom, for 2 critical nights.





*The End*

