

Species of the Month

Black Swift

Cypseloides niger



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Black Swift

- Large species of swift, 7-in in length
- Dark plumage with sharply pointed wings, a notched tail, and a small beak
- Feeds on insects while in flight
- North American populations have been in steep decline since 1970
- The black swift is migratory but little is known about where they go. Recent work in Colorado documented that they travel over 4000 miles to the rainforests of Brazil.



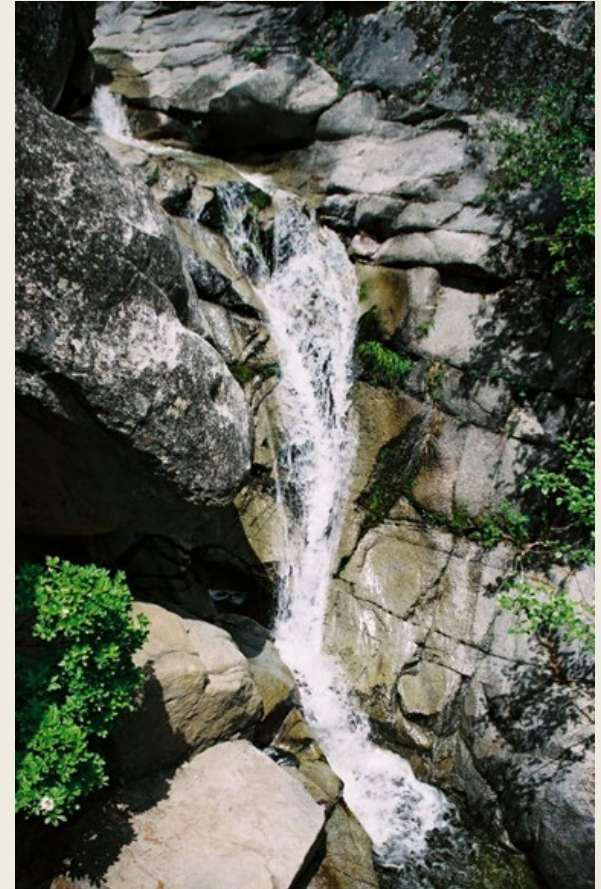
Black Swift

- In the Plan Area black swifts nest in the San Jacinto Mountains
- Males and females are thought to be monogamous and will form long-term bonds
- Black swifts nest on cliff faces, often behind waterfalls, they have also been documented nesting on sea cliffs
- Nests are made out of mud and moss, and are often reused for multiple years
- Can nest in small colonies and will migrate together, often with other species of swifts



Monitoring and Management

- Include within the MSHCP Conservation area at least 34,020 acres of deciduous woodland and forest and montane coniferous forest within the San Bernardino Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains Bioregions to provide breeding and foraging Habitat, including the known nesting location of the black swift at Tahquitz Creek within the San Jacinto Wilderness Area and the potential nesting location at the north fork of the San Jacinto River in the San Jacinto Mountains.
- Monitor the distribution of this species at least once every 8 years. Maintain species presence and continued use at 75% of identified locations.
- Monitoring objectives have not been met for this species



Thank You



Steven Mcsweeney