



Swiftnado

You may have heard of a sharknado but have you ever heard of swiftnado? Unlike sharknados swiftnados aren't just something that you see on TV but a real life phenomenon.

When entering a large chimney, a Chimney Swift will typically dive in headfirst and then quickly flip around so that they're head up once inside. During migration Chimney Swifts will roost in groups that can range from a few birds to sometimes hundreds or even thousands of Chimney Swifts. Typically Chimney Swifts will enter their roost site just before sunset and when there's lots and lots of birds they start to swirl together and funnel into the chimney looking like a tornado of Swifts - a **SWIFTNADO**.

Check out this video to see what a Swiftnado looks like when there's **hundreds** of Chimney Swifts funneling into a chimney <https://youtu.be/OZ5MtaPeKtw?t=244>.



Photo by Erin Brethauer

Swiftnado in a Bottle Experiment

To simulate a real life Swiftnado we're going to make a Swiftnado in a bottle.

Materials

- Empty clear plastic bottle with a cap (2L pop bottle is best)
- Water
- Dish soap
- Glitter
- Toilet paper tube
- Markers/ pencil crayons/ crayons

Instructions

- 1) Fill the plastic bottle up most of the way with water
- 2) Add a drop of dish soap and a pinch of glitter (we'll imagine the glitter is Chimney Swifts)
- 3) Put the cap tightly on the bottle
- 4) Draw a chimney onto the toilet paper tube
- 5) Turn the bottle upside down and holding it by the neck quickly swirl it around in circles a bunch of times
- 6) Quickly stick your swiftnado in the toilet paper tube and watch the 'swifts' go into the 'chimney'



Swiftnado bottle experiment