

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

YEAR OF THE AERIAL INSECTIVORE | 2024

- WHEREAS,** the term “aerial insectivores” refers to species of birds that eat insects while on the wing, including Swifts (Chimney Swifts), Swallows (Barn, Tree, Cliff, Northern Roughwing, and Purple Martin) Nightjars (Common Nighthawks, Whippoorwills, and Chuck-Will-Widows), and Flycatchers; and
- WHEREAS,** Studies, have shown that certain species of aerial insectivores have declined by more than 13% since 2012, as illustrated by the attached charts, and are projected to decline further; and
- WHEREAS,** Studies have shown that aerial insectivores such as Chimney Swifts consume as many as 5,000 insects per day per bird, including mosquitos and flies; and
- WHEREAS,** Aerial insectivores inhabit all areas of Durham County, including urban and rural settings; and
- WHEREAS,** Many aerial insectivores live in colonies and many remain active in the evening after working hours, enhancing the appeal and ease of observing them; and
- WHEREAS,** social events for viewing aerial insectivores have benefited local businesses by attracting viewers to commercial establishments for viewing events and could benefit even more local businesses if better known; and
- WHEREAS,** viewing nature has been shown to reduce stress and promote health; and
- WHEREAS,** New Hope Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, and its Durham partners have created a blueprint for conservation of aerial insectivores in Durham that addresses loss of habitat in our community, promotes best practices for protection of habitat, and makes our community a richer, more biologically diverse, healthier place to live for all inhabitants, human, bird, and otherwise; and
- WHEREAS,** knowledge of specific practices for conserving and protecting the populations of aerial insectivores would benefit from the designation of the “Year of the Aerial Insectivore.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim 2024 as the

“YEAR OF THE AERIAL INSECTIVORE”

in Durham County, NC and encourage use of the “Best Practices for Conserving Aerial Insectivores in Durham” document that New Hope Audubon has submitted to the Durham City/County Planning Department as its guide.

This the 29th day of April 2024.

Nida Allam, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

