

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: **VAUX'S SWIFT** *Chaetura vauxii*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

.At least six – all individuals seen at the same time.

3. Parish: **East Baton Rouge**

Specific Locality: **Baton Rouge, University Lakes**

4. Date(s) when observed: **27 November 2018**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **11:45 AM – 12:05 PM.**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff
City: 435 Pecan Drive, St. Gabriel
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

NONE.

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):

The swifts had been previously reported and we went to the lakes to look for them.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Excellent. Skies were clear, 52 F, wind NNW 5-10.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Both observers shared DLD's 8 X 40 <<brand>> binoculars (always in the truck) because we had not intended to go birding – but then passed by the location on the way to run an errand.

11. Distance to bird(s): **A couple observations as close as 20-30 ft., others more distant but effectively were flying past/over the observers, who really wished they**

also had a spare camera in the truck!

12. Duration of observation: **at least one or more usually in view during the entire 20 minute period – either by naked eye or via shared binoculars.**

13. Habitat: **Aerial – flycatching above the lakes.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Constant erratic, rapid flight – distinctive twittering flight of a Chaetura swift – but with fewer prolonged glides than Chimney Swift. Birds moving over a fairly large area from Dalrymple on the west to the southeast side of the upper lake and south out over the upper end of the main University Lake adjacent to Morning Glory.

EBird entry: Continuing. Dittmann and I were traveling N on Dalrymple and could see a couple swifts zipping around the intersection of Dalrymple and Morning Glory. So we pulled in to the BREC lot between the lakes and had up to 6 swifts in view at once. Everything we saw was solid Vaux's. There could have been more than six individuals. The swifts were almost continuously in view for about 20 minutes (11:45 AM-12:05 PM) with great views in good light as close as 20-30 feet, then they disappeared. But, when we passed through there again around 1:30 PM we could see at least one Vaux's flying around.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

We had great views with excellent lighting conditions during this impromptu stop – we hoped to have gone back for additional observations/photos but other subsequent stops did not yield swifts. Obvious *Chaetura* by overall proportions (narrow wings, cigar-shaped body with short inconspicuous tail) and coloration. Above blackish, with hints of glossy blackish-blue included cap and through eye, saddle, and wings that contrasted with light brownish tan rump and upper tail coverts. Under parts paler, whitish throat extending upwards on cheeks to give the capped look, buff-gray under parts gradually darkening to darkest on lower belly and under tail coverts. Vaux's Swifts are to Chimney's as Cave Swallows are to Cliff's – in that they are smaller, shorter-winged, and appear capped.

16. Voice: **Silent, or we were unable to hear over wind/traffic noise.**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Chimney Swift- both observers very familiar with this species, although none were seen for direct comparison. Ebird checklist is <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S52592720>:

See also #15 above – these birds were smaller, shorter-winged, with more twittering flight than Chimney – lighter below with a dark capped look and a paler brown rump.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

. **NO**

19. Previous experience with this species:

. **Both familiar with this species from growing up the West; also extensive experience with Chimney Swifts. We have seen wintering Vaux's at this location in the past.**

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

. **None.**

a. at time of observation:

. **None.**

b. after observation:

NONE.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	Same day to eBird.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

.YES.

23. Date: **completed on 11 February 2019**

Time:

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24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

YES _____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____