

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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**Species:** Vaux's Swift, *Chaetura vauxi*

**Location:** The Garden District (Olive Street x Park Ave), Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

**Date:** 13 December 2020

**Age and sex:** Unknown

**Molt status:** Unknown

**Number of individuals:** Nine

**Other observers:** None

**Original observer:** Uncertain

**Circumstances:** While on a walk around the neighborhood I noted a small flock of low-flying swifts, nearly directly overhead. The birds gained elevation and headed off to the southeast and disappeared. A calm cloudy day. eBird checklist:  
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S77433238>

**Description:** Small swifts with stiff wings held outstretched, fluttery flight, short tails. Smaller, stockier, and more fluttering flight than a Chimney. Silent.

**Discussion:** While I wasn't able to study the birds for a very long time, all of the birds looked ok for Vaux's (vs Chimney), which is also the more expected species at this late date. It seems likely that these are some of the same individuals that have been frequenting University Lakes, just to the south of this location. The only other similar aerial insectivore around at this time of year is Tree Swallow, but these birds were not white below. While this is a tricky identification, this is a great year for this species and Vaux's is basically the default swift in Baton Rouge in the winter.