

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION

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Species: Vaux's Swift, *Chaetura vauxi*

Location: University Hills neighborhood, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish

Date: 27 December 2020

Age and sex: Unknown

Molt status: Unknown

Number of individuals: One

Other observers: None

Original observer: Uncertain

Circumstances: While birding Fred Sheldon's yard looking at the continuing Broad-billed Hummingbird, I got quick but good looks at a low-flying north-bound swift. The bird disappeared before anyone else could get on it. A calm clear day. eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S78062703>

Description: A small swift, clearly a *Chaetura*. Vaux's expected this late in the year. Short wings and tail, stocky overall, more so than on a Chimney. Flight more wobbly. Fairly pale on throat and chest. Silent. No photos.

Discussion: While I wasn't able to study the bird for a very long time, I got a good look and it looked good for Vaux's (vs Chimney) based on the relatively pale throat and stocky structure. It seems likely that this is one of the same individuals that have been frequenting University Lakes, just to the northwest of this location. The only other similar aerial insectivore around at this time of year is Tree Swallow, but this bird was 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.