

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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

**Location:** University Lakes, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

**Date:** 2 January 2020

**Age and sex:** Unknown

**Molt status:** Unknown

**Number of individuals:** Six

**Other observers:** None

**Original observer:** Uncertain

**Circumstances:** While scanning the lakes from the vicinity of Lod Cook with my spotting scope, I noted a small flock of swifts at their regular spot over May Street. Scanning the tops of the trees to the east of that location a few times, I came up with a maximum count of six individuals. A calm clear day. eBird checklist:  
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S78527569>

**Description:** *Chaetura* swifts with pale throats and chests, fast fluttering flight. Too far away to note much in the way of additional field marks or get photos, but given that this was a known group of individuals at their regular location I didn't spend time trying to get better looks or photos.

**Discussion:** All of the birds looked ok for Vaux's (vs Chimney), which is also the more expected species at this late date. 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.