

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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

**Location:** Capitol Lake, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

**Date:** 2 December 2020

**Age and sex:** Unknown

**Molt status:** Unknown

**Number of individuals:** Ten

**Other observers:** Matt Brady, Robb Brumfield, Garrett Rhyne, Dan Lane, Andre Moncrieff.

**Original observer:** Nick Ramsey

**Circumstances:** While searching for a previously reported Black-throated Gray Warbler, Andre and I noted some swifts flying around the northern (main) Capitol Lake. Two individuals had been reported here on 15 November by Nick Ramsey, but not since then. Many have been seen on University Lakes in the last few days, however. Weather was quite pleasant, temps in upper 50s, 10 mph E wind, clear. eBird list, including photographs: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76981637>

**Description:** Many swifts flying around the northern lake with swallows, and over the oaks around all margins of the lake, often at very close range from our vantage on the southern lake shore. Multiple scans of the lake produced a maximum count of 10 individuals at one time. 6-7 in view many times throughout our time scanning the lake. Small *Chaetura* swifts, noticeably smaller than a Chimney (although none present for comparison), and in particular shorter winged and shorter bodied, all of which gave them a very fluttery flight style and different shape (not as angular and lanky as a Chimney). Quite a bit of variation in overall color, but all had paler throats and noticeably pale rumps. A few birds with extremely pale throats, as is typical of Vaux's. Vaux's is the expected *Chaetura* in December. All birds were silent. Many photos.

**Discussion:** A tough ID from Chimney, but given the late date (now in December), Vaux's is the expected species. All birds seen showed plumage and structural characters consistent with Vaux's, including pale throats and rumps, short wings (and in particular short "arms"/inner wings) without a prominent bulge in the secondaries, and a fluttering flight style.











