

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

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

27 (plus 1 Chimney/Vaux's)

3. Parish: East Baton Rouge

Specific Locality: Arsenal Park next to Capitol Lake

4. Date(s) when observed:

5 Dec 2020

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

~4:30PM

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: David Vander Pluym
City: Baton Rouge
State: Louisiana

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

Lauren Harter. Robb Brumfield and Glenn

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

Many have had various numbers prior to this and after.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Overcast

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

10x42 Swarovski's

11. Distance to bird(s):

+50 feet directly overhead

12. Duration of observation:

Total was maybe a couple of seconds but any individual was seen for <1 sec

13. Habitat:

Aerial over a park and lake

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

Group streamed over head moving south than came back north and then back south. This was over about 5 minutes.

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*):

Flock was continuing, but a new high count. Individually counted as they streamed over, likely more. Count was the highest count I got between the 3 quick flyovers. All but 1 (entered as Vaux's/Chimney) appeared uniform in size and structure. Despite very quick flyovers good looks at the structure of several individuals. Obvious small dark swifts with very quick fluttering wingbeats. All appeared uniform dark. Appeared rather short tailed with broad based wings (appeared to be the width of the body) that were then evenly thin lacking any bulge to the secondaries.

16. Voice:

Heard high pitch chirps/twitters. Higher pitched than Chimney

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

From Chimney Swift I was surprised at how distinct the structure was compared to Chimney Swifts seen earlier in the fall. Calls also distinctly higher-pitched than a Chimney Swift.

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

Others have gotten photos with these continuing bird(s)

19. Previous experience with this species:

Regularly (prior to this year) see Vaux's Swifts in migration and during the breeding season some years and was always on the lookout for a vagrant Chimney Swift (I've only seen the two species together once back in 2006). Regularly saw Chimney Swift this past fall, prior to that would be every couple years.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
None

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

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

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

Yes, one individual was probably a Vaux's but wasn't certain so left it as spuh.

23. Date: 16 Dec 2020

Time:

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?

_____ Sure _____

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