

# LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1
3. Parish:  
St. Martin
4. Specific Locality:  
ULL Experimental Farm
5. Date(s) when observed: January 8, 2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 2:02-3:08
7. Reporting observer: Phillip Wallace
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Dave Patton, Brad Moon
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Variable, excellent to poor.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex Diamondback 10x42 binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): 10-100 yards
13. Duration of observation: 1 hour
14. Habitat: Freshwater marsh
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flying and feeding on the wing; loosely associated with a flock of Tree Swallows
16. 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):  
Obviously a swift with fast, erratic flight. It seemed small, but size is difficult to judge on a lone fast-moving bird. We spent most of our time trying to get photos for

documentation. The photos show a short-tailed Swift with a pale throat and breast and a pale rump and collar contrasting with a darker mantle. It appears pudgy for a Swift.

17. Voice: None

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):  
Short tail, pale rump and throat (not to mention the season) make Vaux's more likely than Chimney Swift.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):  
Photos by Wallace attached. Much better photos by Patton and Moon are on eBird <https://ebird.org/checklist/S208589544> and iNat (Moon) <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/257891189>

20. Previous experience with this species: I've seen a few in LA and a few out west.

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
Sibley and eBird

22. Identification aids used when?  
After observation

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:  
The photos seem conclusive if Chimney Swift is the only contender, but I have no idea about what tropical contenders there are.

24. Date report completed:  
January 10, 2025

25. 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?  
Yes

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?  
Yes











