

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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Species: Vaux's Swift, *Chaetura vauxi*

Location: University Lakes, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Date: 14 November 2014

Age and sex: Hatch year, sex unknown

Molt status: None

Number of individuals: One

Other observers: John Hruska, Matt Brady, Mike Harvey.

Original observer: Glenn F. Seeholzer

Circumstances: Glenn called us that he had found a Chaetura swift flying around the lake with Tree Swallows and that he thought it might be a Vaux's given the date. Matt, John, Mike, and I were nearby, so we drove over a few minutes later. The bird was flying low over the lakes and doing loops over the land, often quite close to our location and even low over our heads on a few occasions. This was along the grassy bank just north of the LSU Bird Refuge. I managed to get some photos which show the throat and rump color well, and we all got good looks at the bird.

Description: Unfortunately I forgot to submit this record until a few years later (current date is 10 February 2017), so the description is based on the few notes that I took immediately after the sighting:

“An obvious Chaetura swift. Separated from Chimney Swift by its apparently smaller size (though obviously no Chimney Swifts were around to compare with), relatively longer- and narrower-appearing wings, obviously paler throat, contrasting pale rump, and erratic, flutter, bat-like flight-style. Unfortunately, the bird did not vocalize.”

Discussion: Looking at the photos now, the most important marks to separate this species from Chimney are the overall structure, and the paleness of the rump and throat, which should eliminate Chimney Swift. Wing shape may be helpful (see sibley's website for comparisons: <http://www.sibleyguides.com/2010/10/identifying-chimney-and-vauxs-swifts-by-wing-shape/>), and our bird looks like it matches what Sibley has on his website. There are also some helpful marks here: <http://www.sibleyguides.com/bird-info/vauxs-swift/>

I have attached all photos that were even marginally in-focus. Some have been cropped, but are otherwise un-edited.

















