

## 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):  
3 individuals, sex and age unknown, general plumage unknown.
3. Parish:  
East Baton Rouge Parish
4. Specific Locality:  
Capitol Lake - (30.4584387, -91.1829667)
5. Date(s) when observed: 08 December, 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:00am
7. Reporting observer: Preston Ballard
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Mia Keriazes
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
N/A
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast day. Birds were flying above lake and over our heads. Observed from multiple angles.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 8x42 Binoculars - Good Condition. Tamron 100-400mm Lens.
12. Distance to bird(s): 40 meters.
13. Duration of observation: 5 minutes
14. Habitat: Lake with some tree cover around in an urban setting.
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Behavior shown was typical for swifts. Multiple individuals flying over the lake/surrounding area presumably feeding.

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):

We observed an obvious swift that was very small and had quick wing beats. Fairly dark, overall, though obviously a little paler than should have been expected for chimney swifts. We noticed a slightly brown tinged rump and a throat that was paler than the rest of the body.

17. Voice: N/A

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

Chimney Swift - this was the most similar species that we had to be cautious about. We were immediately doubtful that these were chimney swifts because there are almost no records for wintering chimney swifts in the United States, it is incredibly unlikely. Additionally, these birds seemed too small and the wings too short. The brownish tinge on the rump that we observed confirmed that the species was not a Chimney swift.

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

Preston Ballard - Attached.

20. Previous experience with this species: N/A

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

Merlin Bird ID used to confirm our ID.

22. Identification aids used when?

At time of sighting, After observation

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

Fairly positive, yes. The birds we observed

24. Date report completed:

03 January, 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

