

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 age unknown
3. Parish:
Vermilion
4. Specific Locality:
Liberty Farm Rd
5. Date(s) when observed: 12/16/24
6. Time(s) of day when observed: mid day
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Marybeth Lima, Crystal Johnson, Lynn Hathaway
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):
flew around but generally quite good
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): flew over quite close, maybe 10 meters
13. Duration of observation: about a minute or so
14. Habitat: rural farm fields, adjacent to a house
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): While we were looking for the Rock Wren, almost unbelievably this came right over. Thankfully, it circled around three times and I was able to obtain some photos before it disappeared. It was perhaps loosely associated with 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):

I spotted this bird and within seconds knew it was a Vaux's based on the extremely flappy flight style with deep wing beats and the relatively straight looking outer primaries. The overall impression of the wings was that they were fairly short for a swift, which is accentuated by the 'bat-like; flight style - I only saw it soar a handful of times. The overall coloration was ashy brown, paler than 99% of Chimney swifts, except on the outermost primaries, around the eye, and on the upper wings and back, which contrasted notable with the body and rump - in particular, there was a notable contrast between the ashy brown rump and the dark brown/black back, which can be seen in some of the photos. The throat and upper breast was paler, and there was a paler 'blonde spot' above the bill before the rest of the head became brown, which is commonly seen on Vaux's Swifts.

17. Voice: unfortunately was silent

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

The main concern is Chimney Swift. This bird was paler than most Chimney swifts and more grey in coloration, and the flight style was notably different as described above. The bird also showed a notably paler rump, which is typical for Vaux's. This is more anecdotal, but I have seen a pale forehead as on this bird in numerous Vaux's but never on a Chimney. The overall structure of the wings was also better for Vaux's - the wings appeared shorter than a Chimney, and the few times it did glide, it lacked the bulging primaries associated with a Chimney Swift. There are also a variety of extremely improbable similar looking South American swift species. Most of these would show a much paler, almost whitish rump. I do not know if I can say anymore than it looked like a normal Vaux's to me, since I do not have much experience with the South American species.

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

20. Previous experience with this species: I have seen numerous Vaux's Swifts in the west, and have even seen Vaux's and Chimney together once before in California

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

22. Identification aids used when?
None used

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:
I am positive this is not a Chimney Swift

24. Date report completed:

1/3/25

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







