

## LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Violet-green Swallow - *Tachycineta thalassina*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1, male, adult
3. Parish:  
Caddo
4. Specific Locality:  
Municipal Pier Rd. on Cross Lake
5. Date(s) when observed: 10/11/25, 10/12/25
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 1:15 PM on 10/11/25 and 7:30 AM on 10/12/25
7. Reporting observer: Caleb Hiers-Persia
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
None on 10/11/25
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
The next day it was seen by: Rosemary Siedler, JD Flores, Larry Raymond, and Devin Bosler
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): In direct harsh midday sun
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Monarch M5s, Canon R7 with 100-400mm F8
12. Distance to bird(s): Initially not far at all, maybe 20 yards, but the next day it was farther out. Maybe twice the initial distance.
13. Duration of observation: Not long at all, less than 5 minutes before it was chased off.
14. Habitat: A fish hatchery on a fresh water lakefront. Small ponds dotting the property make it ideal for Swallows and Flycatchers. The whole area is currently swarming with midges and mosquitoes.

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): It was perched on power lines in a mixed Swallow flock. Within a minute it was flushed off by a Belted Kingfisher. The next day it was standard Swallow behavior, alternating between feeding and perching for the hour I observed it.

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 was leaving the nearby Pier when I saw a large mixed Swallow flock perched on power lines along the road so I pulled over and hopped out of my car. I scanned the flock and picked out a handful of CASW and CLSW which are flagged on eBird so I walked back to my car to grab my camera to properly document. When I walked back and began to snap pics I saw the bird in question through my viewfinder and immediately suspected VGSW but it was fairly brown in the harsh light so I considered a juvenile or maybe even a weird aberrant plumage. The white face stretching behind and over the eye stood out to me the most. One of my pics had a green sheen to the wing, but I couldn't tell if it was an artifact from the bush I was shooting through so I didn't want to be 100% certain off of that.

The swallows were unfortunately all flushed by a Belted Kingfisher and didn't return so I hopped back in my car and drove to Ford Park nearby. I looked at the pictures and sent them to other birders. Everyone agreed it was a good candidate for VGSW so I coordinated with L. Raymond and J. Dillon to meet up again that evening to search for it. We were unsuccessful, so I posted to the appropriate ID groups on Facebook to gauge everyone's opinions, who were all in agreement with VGSW. Thankfully it stuck around the next morning and others were able to see it as well.

17. Voice: No noticeable vocalizations

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

White stretching behind the eye and the white patches beside the rump ruled out BANS and TRSW and eventually we got a decent photo of the green iridescence.

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

Photos by myself are attached

20. Previous experience with this species: I believe I saw them while hiking in California many years ago, but I was not a birder at the time. I was familiar enough to recognize it as a potential Violet-green from seeing the sp. in field guides/online etc

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

I sent pics to 4-5 local birders who's expertise I trust and later to birding FB groups

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

10/12/25

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





