

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Latilong _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 83-061
 Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Vaux's or Chimney Swift
 Scientific Name Chaetura sp.
 Obs. date 9/09/83 Time(s) approx. 10 am
 Duration of obs. 15-30 seconds
 Distance from bird 100 ft.
 Light conditions partial backlit, but not bad
 Optical equip. none handy, naked eye observation
 Photo equip. --
 Notes made at time of sighting
 Notes made later from memory _____
 Date report prepared 01/28/84

Weather at time of this observation.
 Mostly cloudy, warm (65-70 ° F),
 westerly breze 0-5 mph.

Prior weather and number of days since change
 Warm and sunny most of 2 weeks
 preceding (some afternoon T-showers)

Locality
 Summit of Squaw Peak Trail near
 Squaw Mtn raptor trapping station,
 Uinta Nat Forest, 5 mi. NE Provo.
 elev. 7500 ft.

Enter number of birds in each category.	GENDER(S)	AGES(S)	PLUMAGE(S) ?	PHOTO(S)
Total number observed.	Males _____	Adults _____	Breeding _____ Transition _____	Available _____
<u>4</u>	Females _____	Juv/Imms _____	Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____	Enclosed _____
	♀ or Imms _____	2/3 yr birds _____	Winter _____ Light ph. _____	
	Unknowns <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknowns <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.
 Four swifts together moving north to south (fairly straight flight path and no soaring) along foothills northeast of Provo. The long narrow wings, with extremely long primaries (and short inner portion of wing) indicated the birds were swifts. Each appeared dark grayish with a stubby blunt tail. Because the birds were seen overhead against white cloud background (and no binoculars were handy) we were unable to see much contrast in the coloration of the breast, throat, underwings, etc. As far as we could see, the birds appeared uniformly grayish underneath. The size and shape of the bird was similar to Chimney Swifts, both observers have seen in the eastern U.S. In fact, Jim Parrish, who first spotted the birds, called them to my attention by saying "Hey! Chimney Swifts. Jim had been in Utah less than a month (native of Alabama) and did not realize this species was unusual here. The tail was very definitely that of a Chaetura sp. swift. White-throated Swifts and Black Swifts had been seen earlier in the summer at the same location. Both have distinctly different tail shapes.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

We could not discriminate the amount of light color on the throat or rump, thus we cannot determine whether the birds were Vaux's or Chimney. Even with binoculars these marks probably require more experience (with Vaux's) than we have.

Variations from expected field marks.

none, given lighting & lack of binoculars.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Black Swift is larger, darker, soars often and has a steadier appearing flight. I saw Black Swifts often the 3 months preceding the observation and am certain these were not Blacks. The tail of a Chaitura swift is unmistakable.

White-throated Swift has bold white & black ventral pattern which we would have seen. Also tail of White-throated Swift is longer and forked.

This leaves Chimney and Vaux's. The observation was definitely of migrating individuals. Vaux's breeds in northern Idaho and western Montana and should be migrating through Utah at this time of year (September). The breeding range of the Chimney Swift does not extend west of eastern Colorado and extreme eastern Montana. Thus any Chimney Swifts reaching Utah County have drifted from the east. Like most eastern birds, Chimney Swifts are probably more likely to occur in Utah in spring (All sightings in Behle & Perry 1975).

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

are of spring individuals). Vaux's Swift could occur in the state both spring and fall with equal likelihood. Thus, we believe the birds seen were probably Vaux's.

behavior- flying south about 100' over Squaw Peak Trail summit.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Aspen stands, grassy meadows near crest of Squaw Peak Trail.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

none heard

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

David L. Fischer
177 Starcrest Drive
Orem, UT 84058

Signature



What is your experience with this or similar birds?

Have seen thousands of Chimney Swifts on hundreds if not thousands of occasions. Have never seen Vaux's.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Jimmie R. Parrish

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature