

FOURTH VERIFIED RECORD OF VAUX'S SWIFT (*CHAETURA VAUXI*) IN FLORIDA

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Webber and Collins (1995) and McNair and Lewis (1997) reviewed the status of Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) in Florida, which included documentation of the three verified records, all in the 1990s, once (recordings of vocalizations) at Gainesville, Alachua County (Webber and Collins 1995), and twice (recordings of vocalizations, photographs) at Apalachicola, Franklin County (McNair and Lewis 1997). This note provides documentation for the fourth verified record (photographs) of Vaux's Swift, at the same site in Apalachicola in northwest Florida.

We observed two Vaux's Swifts roosting in a chimney of the Apalachicola town hall on 23 November 1997. Subsequently, we observed one bird from 2-15 December. Their roosting behavior was similar to the small flock of Vaux's Swifts we observed in the winter of 1995-1996 (McNair and Lewis 1997). On 15 December 1997, we captured the single Vaux's Swift in the chimney at 1756 hr, then banded (2121-79482) and photographed the bird (Figure 1). The bird's mass at 1830 hr was 17.4 g and on 16 December (0830 hr), when we released the bird, was 15.3 g, an overnight loss of 12%. On 15 December, the fat class was 0 although the swift had a food bolus in its crop. Other data were: body length: 108 mm; wing length (chord/flattened [erroneously stated as maximum flattened in McNair and Lewis 1997]): 110/113 mm; tail length (central rectrices including spines): 37.5 mm; tarsus: 10.8 mm; and bill length (base of forehead/anterior edge of nostril): 5.3/3.45 mm. The plumage was fresh and unworn, including sharp tips on all spines of the rectrices. The green iridescence on the wings was extensive, especially on the inner primaries, and the "bandit" mask on the face was pronounced. Spots of dried mud were present on the bill and anterior crown feathers. Molt was complete. We detected no parasites. The feet were in good condition. The chin, throat and upper breast were off-white for 23.5 mm along the body axis and sharply demarcated from the brownish-gray middle breast. The rump and upper tail coverts were brownish-gray, noticeably paler than the back and rectrices. Mensural data, especially the short wings and tail, confirm that the swift we banded was a Vaux's Swift and was probably an adult (McNair and Lewis 1997, Pyle 1997). Despite our mensural and plumage data, and plumage characteristics cited in Pyle (1997), we were unsure whether the bird we banded was of the migratory race *C. v. vauxi*, rather than *C. v. tamaulipensis*, which is possibly migratory (see McNair and Lewis 1997). We believe, however, that our data, including reexamination of our notes and photographs from earlier observations (McNair and Lewis 1997), suggest the subspecies is most likely *C. v. vauxi*. We emphasize that specimens should be collected to positively determine the racial identity of Vaux's Swifts in Florida.

In summary, we document the fourth verified record of Vaux's Swift in Florida. We

verified records of Vaux's Swifts in each of the three winters (1994-1996, 1997-1998) in which we detected this species at Apalachicola.



Figure 1. Vaux's Swift captured at Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida, 15 December 1997. See text for complete description. Note that the chin, throat, and upper breast are lighter than the remainder of the underparts. Photo by T. E. Lewis.

LITERATURE CITED

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