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First Sight Record of Vaux's Swift in Florida

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during the nesting season, and if present, should have been seen and heard, we conclude that none existed.

These same 4 males had been counted in the 1979 survey when the known population of Dusky Seaside Sparrows was 13 males. Three of these birds were captured in the fall of 1979 and maintained in outdoor aviaries at the FGFWFC's Wildlife Research Laboratory in Gainesville, Florida. At the time of the 1980 survey, 2 males were still being held in captivity. In July 1980, 3 of the 4 remaining wild male Dusky Seaside Sparrows were captured and transported to Gainesville. Surprisingly, the sparrow with the orange band that had been last observed on the St. Johns unit of the Refuge on 26 May was netted 22 July on the Beeline unit, over 8 miles to the south and adjacent to the territory of the green banded male. Recent search efforts (23-25 July, 14-15 August, and 21-22 October) have failed to locate the latter sparrow. The 2 unbanded birds on private property were captured on 29 July and are now in Gainesville.

In 1981 (29 April - 19 June), 75 man-hours were spent searching for the green banded male and any previously undetected Dusky Seaside Sparrows. The search effort was concentrated in areas where birds were located in 1980 and survey methods were similar. No Dusky Seaside Sparrows were found in the 1981 survey.

We are grateful to the following who participated one or more times in the survey: James L. Baker, Parker Bauer, Lori Breen, Greg Bretz, Neal Eichholz, Allen Flock, Dorothy W. Freeman, Ward Fuert, Gregory L. Holder, Stephen A. Nesbitt, Kathy Post, Will Post, Larry Salada, Stephen T. Schwikert, Anne Shapiro, Macklin Smith, Paul W. Sykes, Jr., Rachel Wientraub and Lois Wood. We thank Lovett E. Williams, Jr., Pamela Skoog, and Paul W. Sykes, Jr., for comments on the manuscript.

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First sight record of Vaux's Swift in Florida.—The Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) breeds in the Pacific northwest from southeastern Alaska south to central California. In migration they occur regularly east to Montana, Nevada, and Arizona and have been reliably reported (October-March) as far east as southern Louisiana (A.O.U. 1957, Lowery 1974). The possibility that this species has occurred in Georgia and Florida has been suspected but identification of "late" or "early" swifts has been equivocal.

At 1750 on 4 December 1980, James Cox, Cathleen NeSmith and I observed six *Chaetura* swifts on the Florida State University campus in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida. I recognized their characteristic weak, "wheezy" twitters as identical to calls of Vaux's Swifts I've heard on previous occasions in the

western United States and Mexico. However, light conditions were poor and no field marks were observed. On subsequent afternoons the diagnostic whitish underparts from throat to lower belly, small size, square tail, and flickering wing beats were clearly visible at distances as close as 15 m (many observers). A maximum of 22 (one flock) was seen on 7 December 1980 (G.R.G., Sidney Graves) and after this date up to 13 were present daily until the 13 January 1981 cold snap (down to 8°F.), after which the maximum number seen was only 4 or 5. Vaux's Swifts were last observed during the "first few days" of March 1981 (C. NeSmith). The first locally arriving Chimney Swifts (*C. pelagica*) were observed on 19 March 1981 (G.R.G.). Attempts to discover the night roosts of *C. vauxi* or to obtain voucher specimens or diagnostic photographs were unsuccessful. These sight observations, 4 December 1980-early March 1981, represent the first record of Vaux's Swift in the southeastern United States. Lowery's (1974, p. 398) statement, "any swift seen in Louisiana after the first week of November and before the second week of March is almost certainly of this species [*C. vauxi*], since there is no unequivocal evidence that the Chimney Swift is ever present anywhere in the United States in this period", is probably applicable to the entire Gulf coast (e.g. Howell 1982; Stevenson 1959, 1960, 1973; Imhof 1962; Edscorn 1978).

I thank H. M. Stevenson and J. M. Stevenson for their efforts to procure a voucher specimen and T. Engstrom for compiling local records.

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Twenty-nine year synopsis of the Coot Bay Christmas Bird Count.—William Bolte and Oron L. Bass, Jr. 1980. South Florida Research Center Report T-605, 19 pp. Available from the second author, SFRC, Everglades National Park, P. O. Box 279, Homestead, FL 33030.—This CBC has been conducted since 1950, although the first count was conducted with the center 2 miles NE of the center of all subsequent counts and therefore not included in this report. This report includes a brief introduction on the history, location, and habitat coverage of the count and a map. The bulk of the report is a 16 p table detailing the results of each count. A total of 241 species, 2 forms, and 1 hybrid has been recorded for the 29 counts, with 81 species observed on each of the 29 counts.