

39th vol 39/3 July 2005 2003-48

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
 (Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

6-1 A
 rec'd 6/6/03

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: 2003-48

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Chimney Swift

(Scientific Name) Chaetura pelagica

Date(s) of occurrence: 20 May 2003

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: unknown

Plumage: Basic

Exact location: Chipeta State Wildlife Area

County: Montrose

Nearest town: Montrose

Elevation: 5800

Length of observation: 2-3 minutes

Time(s) of observation: 8:00pm

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jimmy Woodard, Max Fuller, Nealand Hill (all from the Oklahoma City, OK area)

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position): The sky was clear, no clouds. The sunlight was fading – but the light was still very good. We were looking nearly directly overhead. The bird was close to us.

Optical equipment used: Pentax 10x42

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 30 feet overhead

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? no

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Directly over the lake

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Flying over a lake, quick wingbeats and rocking motion, loud twittering.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. The bird was immediately recognized as a swift because of its shape, flight, and call. It was short-tailed, cigar-shaped body and long, pointed wings. The typical "flying cigar". It was twittering and chattering as a chimney swift, which the observers as a group had heard many times. The bird was dark underneath – no sign of white or pale color on the throat or breast.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: loud twittering and chirping, high and rapid.

SIMILAR SPECIES – This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: The bird was too small and short-tailed for a black swift and the wings were narrower. It did not have any visible white underneath or on the sides of rump like a white-throated swift. It was not pale on the breast as a Vaux's swift. The bird's wings were more long and narrow than a swallow, tail short and no notch in tail.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Have spent most of my birding years in eastern KS and western MO – and am very familiar with the sound, shape and activity of chimney swifts. The same with the other birders from OK.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): Sibley's Guide to the Birds, National Geographic Field Guide

This report was made from (check one) ☐ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☒ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: 5/23/03

Reporting observer: Tracy Wohl

Signature: Tracy Wohl

Reporting observer's address: 1745 Ironton

City: Montrose

State: Co.

Zip: 81401

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601