

# PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

576-01-2002

\*\*\*\*\*

SPECIES (common and scientific name) CAVE SWALLOW (Petrochelidon fulva)  
Subspecies, if known \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) \_\_\_\_\_

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult

DATE OF OBSERVATION 11-19-02 TIME 12:05-12:15 PM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) HUNTSDALE, PENN TOWNSHIP (CUMBERLAND COUNTY)

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) SHEAFFER ROAD, HUNTSDALE FISH HATCHERY

### OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name DANIEL SNELL  
Address PO Box 653  
City SHIPPENSBURG State PA ZIP 17257  
e-mail (optional) dan-snell@hotmail.com phone (optional) 717-532-7708

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): MARILYN SNELL (mother) - identified the bird to being a swallow species.

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) 1/4 acre overflow pond for the fish hatchery (water was not frozen)

DISTANCE TO BIRD 20-100 feet (varied as the bird observed was constantly flying)

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) sleeting, overcast. Skies, cloud diffused sunlight. Throughout observation, bird was at or BELOW eye level.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED SWAROVSKI<sup>EL</sup> 8.5 x 48

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): HEAD & NECK forehead light orange, back part of crown dark, auricular area light yellow creme, dark "flecks" formed into a partial necklace, back of neck light yellow creme and orange tint. EYES & LORES dark eye-line, dark eye. BILL dark and tiny. UPPERPARTS Back dark with faint white linear streaks, rump light yellow creme with orange tint, tail (upper) dark, tail relatively square. UNDERPARTS throat, belly, side and flanks yellow-creme underwash. WING appeared uniformly dark (upper), did not note underside of wing.

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) During the entire observation time, the bird was flying constantly close (0.5 to 2 feet) to the water's surface. I watched the bird (two times) "stall" in mid-air using shallow slightly bent wingbeats. And then continue on tracing an overhead path confining itself to flying over the 1/4 acre pond during my ten minutes of observation.

VOCALIZATIONS none heard

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph  Video recording  Audio recording  Drawing

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name Daniel Snell

Address same as observer's data

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition \_\_\_\_\_

If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) tail not deeply forked (like Barn Swallow or Purple Martin) - light orangish forehead & light yellow crown auricular area (were two key characters that helped eliminate the Cliff Swallow)

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: One other witness with me (casual birdwatcher). I live 15 minutes from this site. Drove back home fast, called Deanne Hoffman, 3 local birders (Dale Geerhart, Ken Gabler, Bob Keener), posted on the net. Changed into my work clothes. Drove back to Sheaffer Rd. site with camera. Stopped sleeting and now partially cloudy. Bird was not detected again. Went subsequently to the site the next two days with no luck.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES many years experience with Cliff Swallows, I have never had any prior experience with Cave Swallow

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) yes, the light auricular region and my close proximity to the bird and good viewing conditions

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation Golden Guide, Kaufman Focus Guide

After observation Sibley Guide to Birds, National Geographic Guide to Birds, Peterson Guide

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 12-20-02

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Daniel Snell

576-01-2002

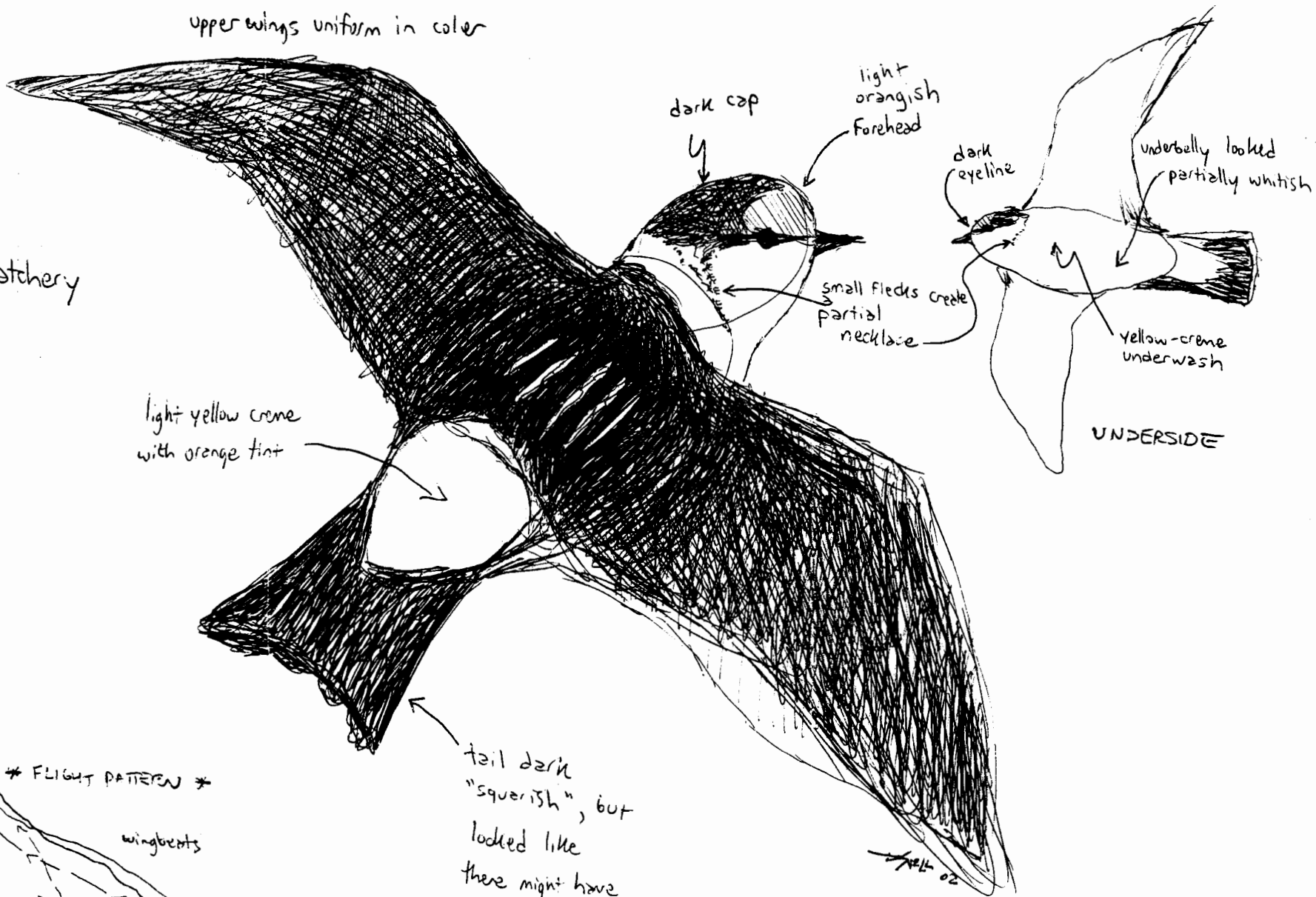
upper wings uniform in color

Cave Swallow

Huntsdale Fish Hatchery

11-19-02

@ 1205-1215



\* FLIGHT PATTERN \*

wingbeats

The Pond  
(Hatchery Overflow Area)

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round One**

Species: Cave Swallow ( Petrochelidon fulva )

Date of Sighting: 19 November 2002 to 19 November 2002

Location: HUNTSDALE

County: CUMBERLAND

Observer(s): Daniel Snell

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Daniel Snell

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

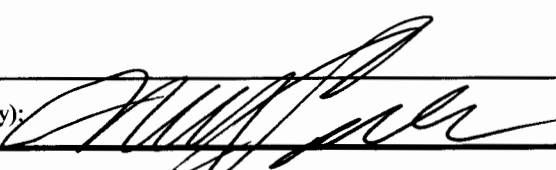
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 6/12/03