

Cave Swallow
October 25, 2004
Chamber's Lake, Chester Co., PA

Around 7:00 a.m. the bird was first spotted flying towards the lake from some trees. It came in a little above eye level but quickly gained altitude until it was nearly out of sight. The overcast skies did not help the situation, as the bird appeared to be only a dark silhouette. It was in the company of three Tree Swallows and compared to them it was small compared with a short square tail and short broad wings. The bird ventured out of sight.

About fifteen minutes later the bird appeared low over the water again with a few Tree Swallows. For about the next 15-20 minutes it flew at or below eye level feeding over the water as close as about 30yds.

With these views it was easy to see the buffy wash to the throat, upperbreast and around to the nape. The crown was dark and appeared like a cap. The rump was buffy. The back was brown, the wings appeared dark and the tail was dark.

After this time, the bird flew off and did not return.

Separation from Cliff Swallow – I think the presence of the buffy wash to the throat and rump and the appearance of the dark cap rule out Cliff Swallow.

Experience with species – I have seen numerous Cave Swallows in Texas on near annual spring trips. I have seen 3-5 Cave Swallows in NJ and one in DE. I see Cliff Swallows annually in PA.

There were four other observers present and there is a possibility that a video of the bird was obtained but I have not heard a definite yes on this. This report was written from notes made both during and immediately after the observation.

Nick Pulcinella
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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Cave Swallow (Petrochelidon fulva)

Date of Sighting: 24 October 2004 to 25 October 2004

Location: CHAMBERS LAKE

County : CHESTER

Observer(s): Larry Lewis, Nick Pulcinella et al.

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: Nick Pulcinella

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

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

Comments: *F/O*

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

10/26/05