

576-02-2005

**Cave Swallow**  
**Petrochelidon fulva**

**Location:** Foot of East Avenue, Erie, Erie County, Pa.

**Date:** November 9, 2005

**Time:** About 10:25 AM and 10:35 AM

**Weather:** Cloudy, wind southerly from 10 to 20 mph, temp. 57 F. Thunderstorms followed the sighting of the Cave Swallows

**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

**Optics:** Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and Kowa TSN 4 with eyepiece set at 30X

**Viewing distance:** as close as 200 feet.

**Viewing conditions:** fair

**Details of sighting and description:** After finishing the waterbird count I drove out to the north pier and looked across to the Erie side and immediately spotted two swallows flying west at the foot of east Avenue. I quickly drove there, which is about a 30 minute drive, and as soon as I arrived I spotted three or four swallows flying along the shoreline in my direction (west). At this point I could see that all had square tails and appeared to be pale on the breast and throat. I got the scope on the birds and immediately singled one out, since they all appeared to be the same species. I followed this bird as it ascended from an altitude of at least 200 feet above the water down to just a foot or two above the water. As it flew past me I could clearly see the pale rump and unmarked pale throat and side of face. I also noticed the square tail and dusky undertail coverts. The rest of the upperside was very dark or blackish in appearance. Since it was flying passed very rapidly I had no time to see any more detail. In about ten minutes another couple flew directly over me at about 200 feet high. I could see that at least one of the birds had an unmarked throat and a square tail with dusky undertail coverts. I spent most of the time trying to obtain identifiable photos of the bird as it flew past, but was unsuccessful. After it passed me I got a glimpse of the upperside and could see that it also had a pale rump. I believe all were Cave Swallows based upon size and behavior compared to the two that I was able to obtain fair looks. The buffy rump rules out all other swallows except Cliff Swallow, but these birds had pale unmarked throats. On the first bird I was able to see the pale unmarked face in addition to the pale throat and rump.

I have seen many Cave Swallows in Texas and the southwest. Only a week prior to this sighting, I had observed large numbers flying over the fields at Laguna Atascosa NWR in Texas.

**Jerry McWilliams**  
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## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Cave Swallow (Petrochelidon fulva)

Date of Sighting: 9 November 2005 to 9 November 2005

Location: ERIE

County : ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

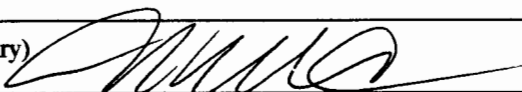
Specimen: No

Recording: No

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

Comments: 7/10

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/24/06