

March 4, 2007

Jeff Michaels  
808 Torrey Lane  
Boalsburg, PA 16827

Thank you for submitting your report of a Cave Swallow at Colyer Lake, Centre County, PA on November 17, 2005.

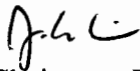
After two rounds of voting the sighting was voted upon (5/2) as a class IV-A record: a record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct but not beyond reasonable doubt.

The lack of seeing the coloration of the forehead and the auriculars clearly led to some uncertainty of the sighting. Most committee members noted the combination of the pale nape and rump definitely lead toward the Cave Swallow identification.

Thank you for providing a very neat, well written report.

Sincerely,

J. Eric Witmer



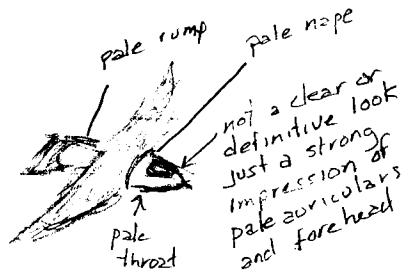
Chairman: Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Record # 576-03-2005

Colyer Lake

11.17.05

Cave Swallow?



pale rump, pale nape,  
pale throat

brief but not clear view of forehead and face  
auriculars

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

576-03-2005

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  
 nickpulcinella@comcast.net

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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): probable juvenile

DATE OF OBSERVATION 11/17/05 TIME \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION (city, borough, township) potter township Centre County

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Colyer Lake

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Jeff Michaels  
 Address 808 Torrey Lane  
 City Boalsburg State Pa ZIP 16827  
 e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) (814) 466-3494  
guenjeffmaric@lazerlink.com

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): \_\_\_\_\_

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Lake

DISTANCE TO BIRD 100-150 feet

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) overcast/cloudy Northwest to West Northwest winds 15-20 mph cold - temps around 30-40° F

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED 10 x 42 roof prisms

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): When I first saw the bird I knew it was a swallow and could see that the throat was pale. The bird was flying about 20 feet off of water at its highest point while in view. the flight was relatively straight with a few slight banks left and right which gave me a clear view of the pale rump, pale nape and pale face. The lighting was not the best for coloration. I was in my car when I saw and watched this bird. I first spotted it to my left along the edge of the lake through the drivers side window and followed it as it flew across the lake until I lost sight of it as it passed behind the rear view mirror. I then got out of the car and looked for 15-20 minutes for the swallow, but could not find it again.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) the swallow flew from my left to right starting fairly low above the water and going higher and leveling off at about 20 feet above the water. Flew like most swallows. The bird hopped left and right a few times while in view, but generally kept flying in the same direction. It seemed to be flying fairly fast.

VOCALIZATIONS none

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing  (rough sketch)

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name Jeff Michaels  
Address 808 Torrey Lane  
City Boalsburg PA 16827 State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail (optional) jeffmich@lazerlink 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) This bird had a pale rump with dark grayish back and wings. The throat appeared to be very pale with the nape also pale. The forehead also appeared to be very pale. Based on these characteristics and the recent sightings of cave swallows in other parts of the state I thought that there was a strong likelihood that the bird I saw was a cave swallow and not a cliff swallow. The recent weather conditions also seemed conducive to a cave swallow sighting (strong SW winds ahead of cold front that passed the night before)

My overall impression was that the bird was a cave swallow

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: I'm not positive about my identification. Primarily because I did not get a clear view of the forehead. My intention isn't to necessarily get an accepted record of this species, but more to provide information that may be useful in the future about possible locations for seeing this species (especially if they become more commonplace in the future). I think the time of year, the weather conditions, and appearance strongly support that this was a cave swallow, but I cannot absolutely rule out cliff swallow.  
(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES I work seasonally for the fish commission (Benner Spring facility) where Tree, Barn, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, and cliff swallows are usually present in varying numbers

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) No, I only saw the bird briefly and did not get a definitive look at the head/face. All other characteristics and timing seemed to indicate Cave swallow

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation Sibley Guide to Birds  
After observation Sibley Guide to Birds

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 12/1/05

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Jeff Michaels

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round One**

Species: Cave Swallow (Petrochelidon fulva)

Date of Sighting: 17 November 2005 to 17 November 2005

Location: COLYER LAKE

County : CENTRE

Observer(s): Jeff Michaels

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: Jeff Michaels

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

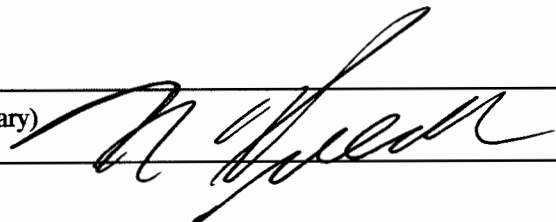
Specimen: No

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					
<del>T. Johnson</del> P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
J. Heller				X				
G. Malosh				X				
TOTALS			4	3				
DECISION								

Comments: 4/3 GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

9/5/05