

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-12-23 10:56:05
Observer's Name	Jon Kauffman
E-mail	jvk5019@psu.edu
Observer's Address	Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Doug Wentzel, Jerod Skebo, Josh Potter, Brain Sedgwick, and Jason Beale
Species (Common Name)	Cave Swallow
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	12-15-2015 9:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S26319887
County	Centre
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Marion Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park
Habitat	n close vicinity: Human modified landscape and structure with surrounding mixed meadows and hedgerows. Overall habitat: Mixed deciduous forest, meadow, hedgerows, and large body of water
Distance to bird	Individual was observed making multiple passes in front of observers. Distance varied from 30 feet to 60 feet
Viewing conditions	Time of sighting was 9:30am with cloud cover 100 percent overcast. 50 F with 10 to 15 mph wind, good visibility (no fog).
Optical equipment used	10x42 Zeiss and 7 x 42 Zeiss
Description	Similar size to a Cedar Waxwing, smaller in size to a European Starling. Body short and stocky with pointed wings and short square tail. Dorsal view provided dark mantle with some speckles of white, dark cap, coverts, secondaries, and primaries. Rump patch visible. Dark cap. +3Forehead patch cinnamon color. Pale nape with light cinnamon cheek and throat.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	The individual observed was making multiple in flight passing in front of the group. Circling back and forth in a east to west orientation.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

From other swallows: Being that this individual had short square tail and rump patch eliminated Barn Swallow, Northern-Rough-winged, Tree Swallow, and Bank Swallow.

Cliff vs Cave: The main characteristic that separated this individual from Cliff Swallow was the presence of a light cinnamon cheek and throat with pale nape. Also noted was the lack of bright white forehead that is found on Cliff Swallows.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Along with observing the physical characteristics the likelihood of a Cliff Swallow on this date seems rarer than Cave Swallows.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, along with the physical characteristics of it being swallow like with a light cinnamon cheek and throat with pale nape and the rarity of a Cliff Swallow on this date. Six qualified birders in the party observed the same physical characteristics.

During

iphone app.

After

Sibely's Field Guide

Click to edit

PORC-webform00284