

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-11-01 10:25:07
Observer's Name	Bobby Brown
E-mail	bobbybrown1011@gmail.com
Observer's Address	United States
Names of additional observers	David Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown (all in finding party)
Species (Common Name)	Cave Swallow
Species (Scientific Name)	Petrochelidon fulva
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	10-27-2016 2:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32258370
County	Lycoming
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Williamsport
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Williamsport River Walk (north side), about a quarter mile upstream of the dam
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.233632 N, 77.010191 W
Habitat	River
Distance to bird	Some close passes of probably less than 20 feet
Viewing conditions	Rain, mostly moderate with some downpours
Optical equipment used	Swarovski EL Swarovision 8.5x42 Binocular
Description	Initially distant look at two swallows foraging low on the river. Lost track of one, which apparently had looped around behind us, because the first close pass came from over left shoulder. On that pass, the pale rump was easily noted. The bird flew around us several times, allowing us to see capped appearance, orange/cinnamon forehead (definitely not white), and lack of dark throat. Photos captured all of these field marks. We did not have definitive looks at two CASW simultaneously, but both birds seemed to have pale rumps when seen at a distance, so we feel it is probable that both were CASW.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Initially foraging low over river. One swallow (definite CASW) made numerous close passes near us up on the river walk, and kept flying into the railroad tunnel that goes under the highway and then reappearing 15-30 seconds later. Both swallows were in flight at all times, and only one of the two came close. No vocalization was heard. We eventually lost track of both birds.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Pale rump rules out swallows other than Cliff/Cave. Capped appearance, pale throat and dark forehead rules out Cliff, but matches Cave.

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

One Cave Swallow was seen/photographed by David Brown and Maddi Dunlap later in the evening on the South Williamsport Side of the River Walk. There was an initial report of Cave Swallows by a single observer at the same location the following day, but all photos from that sighting show juvenile Tree Swallows and no other observers could confirm the sighting, so it is unclear if the birds continued over night.

The first two photos (labeled 1 and 2) are mine, and the remainder, which show more detail, were taken by David Brown during the initial sighting. More photos appear on the eBird checklist, if needed.

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

Yes, close views and photos clearly show diagnostic features

During

NatGeo Field Guide App, Sibley eGuide App

After

Sibley Eastern

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



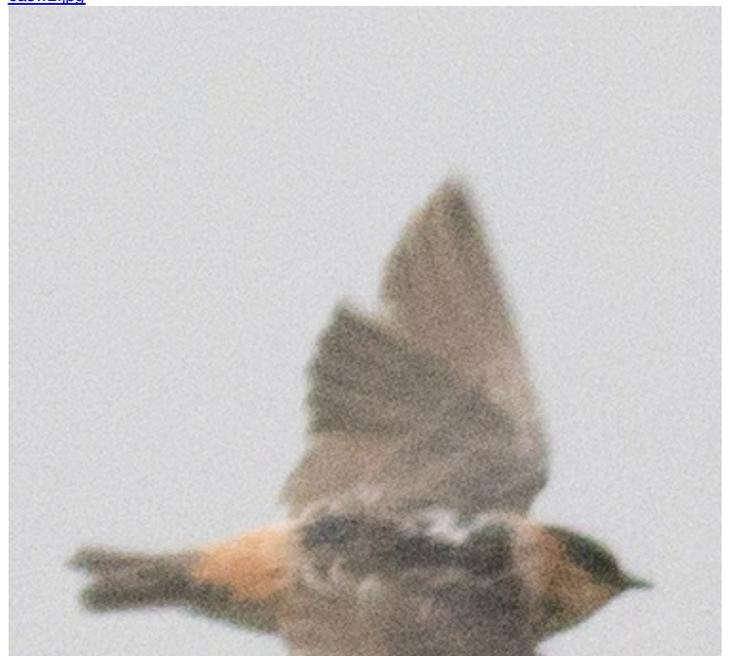
[casw1.jpg](#)



[casw2.jpg](#)



[casw3.jpg](#)





[casw4.jpg](#)



[casw5.jpg](#)



[casw6.jpg](#)

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