



IOS IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Rare Bird Documentation1 message

Mon, Nov 23, 2015
at 5:10 PM

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com, [REDACTED]

- 1) Reason for documentation: Unusual species Unusual date
- 2) Species: Cave Swallow
- 3) Number of birds: 1
- 4) Age/Sex/Plumage: pale adult or possible juvenile
- 5) Date: friday November 20, 2015
- 6) Location: Lake Co, IBSP Hawkwatch
- 7) Observers: Many at Hawkwatch, including, Paul Sweet, Jeff S., Greg N. , Vic B.
- 8) Your name: Andrew Stewart
- 9) Mailing address: [REDACTED]
- 10) E-mail address: [REDACTED]
- 11) Others agreeing with the identification: I think all present agreed that the bird was a cliff/cave candidate and most likely a Cave Swallow, not a lot of discussion of key field marks besides lighter colored throat.
- 12) Others not agreeing with the identification: not aware of any disagreement, not sure who saw the bird well
- 13) Description of bird: a light brown or tan, short tailed, small blackbird size bird , face pattern that looked cliff swallow type with a darker cap, light hind neck and a light orange tan color on face above bill and on throat. The body and underwings were light tan or light gray tan. There was some dark buffy or tan wash on sides of flanks and breast. I did not see rump from my observation angle.
- 14) Description of behaviour: flying low altitude from the north directly towards the Shelter, seemed to turn and go almost directly over shelter.
- 15) Description of vocalizations: didn't hear any
- 16) Description of habitat: IBSP Hawkwatch Shelter
- 17) Optical equipment used: 12 x 50 binocular
- 18) Distance/how measured: less than 100 yards to about 20 ft
- 19) Time of observation: around noon, did not record exact time
- 20) Total time of observation: 2 or 3 sec with binoculars

21) Weather conditions: windy and overcast

22) Previous experience: Have seen numerous Cliff Swallows all summer and early fall here in Lake Co. Have seen Cave Swallows in West Texas but over 40 years ago. So I don't claim any relevant personal experience with Cave Swallows

23) How were similar species eliminated? The general appearance of a short stocky tan Swallow eliminates Barn and Tree. Face pattern and pale neck as well as uniform light tan gray underside and wing eliminates N. Rough-Winged. The throat color is what allowed me to eliminate Cliff, There was color in the throat, a buffy tan or orange tan but it was light. The color of the throat was similar to the color of the fore head. My look was very brief but at such high magnification I saw bird turn his head and look at Hawkwatch and I recall the face color had good contrast with the cap but not with the hind neck, again adding to the overall light gray tan color of the bird from underneath

24) Were photos taken? Yes

25) Photographer's name: Greg N. but not sure of thier value

26) Books consulted, advice received: I was aware that Cave Swallow was a possibility for Lake Co in November and that there was an older photo and record from at IBSP in ebird that I had viewed. I was also aware that a Cave Swallow had already been reported this year at the IBSP Hawkwatch. I had reviewed Sibley before the first Swallow was seen this year at IBSP and determined it would be a tough fly-by only identification. After the first Cave Swallow was reported at IBSP this month, I re-reviewed the Sibley Guide in conjunction with the Photo published by Brendon Lake of that sighting. I also saw Nat C.'s photo of the bird he and Al S. saw at IBSP South earlier in the day the same day this bird was seen. Both these photos seemed to be consistent with my close but brief look. I mostly saw the bird from underneath. Very light and uniform underneath with some buffy wash. However the throat on the B. Lake photo is darker or has a more distinct dark edge than what I saw (recall). The second photo of a different bird by Nat C, was also similar in body color and face pattern but the color of the forehead and throat seemed redder or richer on his bird than the look I got at the IBSP HW bird . I have spent a lot more time looking at both photos than I did of the actual bird, but I got a very close look through the binoculars, equal in magnification to the fully cropped photos listed above. Both of the previous photos showed the pale uniform color and subtle contrast of the face pattern of this bird, which were marks that I observed well.

27) Length of time after field notes were recorded: the ebird notes were within 4 hr

28) Length of time after this form was completed: 3 days, when requested

29) Additional remarks: I was standing next to Paul when he picked up the bird. It was over the road and headed toward the shelter. I got on the bird, it was a very short but very close look (12x), I clearly saw the bird looking at us and turn its head, but very brief.