



UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

03-18-92

Jim,

Thank you for the documentation form. I've made copies and hope to use them in the future.

From the information I've seen there is no earlier date for a Barn Swallow sighting. Can you let me know if this is correct. I'd like to know if I set a new record.

I spoke to the biologists at Otter Creek and 3 Sandhill Cranes spent last summer there. I am going to be working for the DNR at Otter Creek this summer so I'll be up on all the activity there and will let you know. So far no sight of them yet this year. I'll be in touch.

Thanks Again

Mike



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P.S. If your ever up this way
let me know, I'd like to meet you
and possibly go birding together.

Mik.

What species? Barn Swallow How many? OneLocation? Section #7, Otter Creek Marsh, Tama County, IowaType of habitat? Cattail MarshWhen? date(s): March 5, 1992 time: 14:00 to 14:30Who? your name and address: Mike Stegmann 1165 260th Street, Garwin, Iowa
50632

others with you: _____

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

While observing water-fowl in the unusually warm weather (temperature in the upper 60's) I noticed a swallow type bird which flew through my field of vision. The flight was the first clue to the birds identification. Flight was constant swooping and close to waters surface much like Tree Swallows. Color of the bird was blue-black upper side (wings, tail, back, head) and light tan underside (breast, belly). Also noted was a chin strap and dark amber or honey color throat. The shape was that of a swallow and the tail was long and deeply forked. The bird was observed for approximately 30 minutes and flight was continuous in the same general area, about a 200 yard circle.

Similar species and how eliminated: Tree Swallows use this area to a great extent later in the spring and summer but the bird seen was blue-black with tan underside and long forked tail which tree swallows lack.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Lighting was good considering over-cast skies with sprinkles. Distance was estimated at 50 to 100 yards. Tasco brand binoculars with zoom 7x-35x50 power were used.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Very familiar with species. Nests on my property.References and persons consulted before writing description: Jim FullerHow long before field notes made? Immediately this form completed? 12 Days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240