

Iowa

John C. Robinson      Fall 1983

Notes on an Identification of Northern Rough-winged Swallows

On October 22, 1983, at approximately 10:05 AM, a flock of swallows flew over the "Refuge" section of Coralville Reservoir. The flight pattern of the three lead birds attracted my attention, as the wings were held differently (slightly farther out and broader) than the wings of the Tree Swallows which are often held at a more acute angle to the body. The undersides of the three birds showed a white flank and breast, and a dirty brown throat. All other swallows in the loose flock (20 - 25 birds) were obvious Tree Swallows. None of the swallows showed a deeply forked tail such as that seen in the Barn Swallow.

Bill Debaetes, an additional observer, agreed with the identification.

Tom Kent, an additional observer, did not agree with the identification.

Sky was overcast; lighting conditions were fair to good.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John C. Robinson". The signature is written in dark ink and is located at the bottom left of the page.