

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Barn Swallow How many? 1

Location? Red Rock Res. #14 bridge, Mason Co. IA

Type of Habitat? Large Reservoir

When? date(s): 13 Nov 1987 time: 11:48 to 11:50

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA

Others with you: none

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

"A swallow flew over the bridge" (I was parked at the east end of the bridge looking at gulls + shorebirds). At first I thought it was a shorebird, but "it circled back and landed on a wire under the bridge. When it flew, it was dark backed, dark headed, red on the throat, and had a deeply forked tail. I got the scope on it briefly. It flew out and back to the wire, I last saw it flying under the bridge."

This is a record late date for Iowa.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Behavior and landing place clearly made it a swallow. Red on throat and forked tail, eliminate all other species. Only tree swallow would be likely at this date. Actually, I knew what the bird was as soon as I got my binoculars on it.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? _____
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Overcast. 30 yds (guess). 10x binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: common bird out of season

References and persons consulted before writing description: none until notes taken, then consulted record late date list and NB Field Guide.

How long before field notes made? 1 min this form completed? 5 hrs

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).