

Long Point Bird Observatory Rare Bird Report Form

P.O. BOX 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada N0E 1M0 Tel: (519) 586-3531 x 162

lpbo@birdscanada.org - www.birdscanada.org/lpbo



Canadian Migration
Monitoring Network



Réseau canadien
de surveillance
des migrations



understand appreciate conserve
comprendre apprécier conserver

In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be confirmed for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the LPBO Program Coordinator and in the Long Point Area Checklist found in *A Birding Guide to Long Point Area*. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature.

PLEASE PRINT.

Species claimed: Violet-green Swallow

No. of birds: 1

Age: unknown - probably definitive basic

Sex: unknown

Date(s): August 21, 2014

Place: Long Point Bird Observatory - Old Cut Research Station

Time(s) of Observation: 0732

Who first saw the bird(s): Stuart A. Mackenzie

Who first identified it: Stuart A. Mackenzie

Other observers (names and addresses):

Any who disagree: no

Your previous experience with the species: Observed numerous times in Alberta, British Columbia, Washington, California, and Mexico.

Your previous experience with any closely similar species:

(a) Formerly: Extensive experience with all North American and most Western Hemisphere swallows.

(b) Same day: Approximately 3,000 Tree Swallows were observed at Old Cut the night previous and as many as 500 on the morning of August 21. Numerous (>100) Barn and Bank were also observed. There were a few Purple Martins, and no Cliff or Northern Rough-winged swallows.

Species present for comparison: Tree and Barn Swallows were nearby.

Which were beside it for comparison: Tree and Barn

Distance from observer(s): 20-50m

How measured: estimate

Optical aids used: 8.5x42 Swarovski EL

Weather conditions (at time of observation)

Visibility: 30km +

Cloud Cover: 1/10

Lighting: Bright

Wind direction and speed: West - 1 beaufort

Circumstances:

I was just beginning the morning census at the end of the Old Cut parking lot when I noticed a few low swallows foraging low over the research station heading west. With my naked eye I noticed that one had a light rump and immediate though that it may be a Cliff so I lifted my binoculars to investigate. Immediately upon finding the bird in my binoculars I was stunned by the vividness of a white face and cheek patch and white rump contrasting a dark greeny-blue back and dark tail. I watched the bird as it curved north until it disappeared behind a row of trees and woodlot that line a nearby channel. I was very fortunate to have noticed the light rump in the first place and having the sun to my back during the entire observation. I immediately called the local contingency to spread the word and notified the staff and volunteers of the research station.

Description:

Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions. Include reasons for the elimination of other species.

The swallow appeared smaller than the nearby Tree and Barns, not much, but it was noticeably sleeker. It was certainly less chunky than the nearby trees, and much shorter and entirely different in stature than the barns. The upperparts of the head and back were dark-greeny-blue that contrasted markedly against a bright, but incomplete white lower back/upper rump. A narrow band of dark feathers down the centre of the lower back toward the tail split the white upper-rump, but was barely noticeable in the views I had. The tail was a darker blue-black than the rest of the bird and slightly forked. The underparts were completely white from top to tail including a very distinct white cheek and face patch which made the dark eye and lores particularly striking. The face patch was not completely white however, with a dusky appearance around the fringes of the head and toward the back.

Elimination of similar species:

Tree/Blue and White/Bahama/Mangrove/Chilean swallows: - The bird in question had an unmistakable white face, especially behind and above the eye and a split white lower back/upper rump, whereas all these species have dark faces and dark rumps. The colouration of this bird was a much more vivid green than the darker blues of these species.

White-rumped Swallow: The bird in question had a white face and incomplete white rump compared to a dark face and a complete white-rump as found in this species.

No. of Comm. August 21
Date 732- Page
1/0 W-1

AMBO- [1]	GCFL-	V6511	735 - flying well
BAIR- [7]	GRCA-;		
MODO- [5]	HOFI-;		
CROW- 30 [1]	COYE-	BTU - white up down	slight white check
DWNO-	CATE-		
BUSA-;	FOE- 14,6		
DOGR-;	BOB-;		
BANS-;	AMCR-		
RWBL- 6, [5]	HOBP-		
RTHU-;	RPVI-		
WBAU-	YWAR-;		
BOES- [1]	LEFL-		
TRES- [2]	EARN-;		
EUST- L	* DICK - fuzzy		
BEVI-;	CROW-	- otherwise TRES 'esk'	
KILL-	BLIN-	- slightly smaller look	
NOFL-;	WUVI-	hooked / not so 'chunky'	
CHSP- L	BCCM-;		
AMRO-;			
HOWR- L			
NIWA-			
PINA-;			
EMWP-			
NOCA- L			

Did you refer to any guides/other literature:(a) **at the time:** no(b) **afterwards:** no**Finally, is this record 100% certain?****Signed:**

E-mail Address: stu.a.mackenzie@gmail.com**Date:** August 21, 2014**Mailing Address:**

POB 160. N0E1M0